

# MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE

OF THE

## UNITED STATES.

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

THE FIRST CAMPAIGN OF AN A. D. C.,

NO. II.

Fort Niagara was a place of some historical notoriety. It had been a frontier post, since the first occupation of the country, having been successively possessed by the French, English, and Americans; all regarding it as commanding an important avenue of inland communication. We, all of us, recollected more or less about the siege of Sir William Johnston, and felt a curiosity to see the remaining traces, and hear the still floating traditions, of that event. Those of us, who, in anticipation of such a visit, had been adroit enough to refresh the memory, respecting that event, appeared to much advantage; while others, who depended on the reminiscences of by-gone reading, were rather less at home than they probably would have been in the siege of Troy, or destruction of Carthage.

The position of this Fort is well selected, and justifies the preference it has found under all dominations. The Niagara river, for about two or three miles from its mouth, forms a gentle curve, of which the two banks are parallel lines. The outer line is represented by the American side, and Fort Niagara, being on the extreme point, not only commands the embouchure, but the inner roadstead also; at least to that point where the inflection of the river cuts off the range. Aware of

this, the British, when excluded from the right bank, instead of establishing a work directly opposite, ascended the river about a mile, and occupied the apex of the inner curve ; thus giving up all contest for the entrance, and extending their command of the stream above. The work here erected, was called Fort George.

While the troops, which had come from Buffalo, proceeded to "four mile creek," which was down the shore of Lake Ontario, the distance expressed by the name, the *Etat Major* (as we affectedly called ourselves, or had been termed in some order) took quarters in the Fort. The appearance of the work pretty well answered the image which fancy had given to it ; having pretensions to about as much antiquity, as the brief existence of cis-atlantic establishments seems to admit. Several of the buildings were of stone, and of a peculiar architecture ; being flat-roofed, and of a somewhat battlemented aspect, that gave them a slight feudal character. These were probably of English origin ; as, while the French possessed the place, there could hardly have been deemed a necessity for such substantial defences. The smaller wooden buildings were of American construction, contrasting strongly with their solid and time-resisting neighbors, and looking much as a modern militia-man would by the side of a knight in ancient armor. The "mess-house," as it was termed, the largest of the stone buildings, had walls of the strength and thickness of a modern penitentiary, or an ancient castle, and was in part bomb-proof. Its windows were contracted, and on its flat roof appeared, at this time, a small piece of ordnance, or grasshopper, which we were told, had borne an important part in a bombardment that had taken place between the two sides of the river, a few days before our arrival. Either because a roof of that construction did not suit a snowy climate, or because it had been neglected, the interior of this building was, at that time, nearly untenable, and occupied only by a few soldiers' families, which made shift to avoid the drip of the leaks and crevices as well as they could, regarding its dark and cavernous rooms as only a lesser evil than the open air. Among these families was a female, who had acquired a local celebrity by her intrepid bearing during the late bombardment. While our group was standing around the grasshopper, her exploits, which were connected with this piece, naturally became the theme of remark and commendation.— Within some of the lower cells of the mess-house, a furnace had been arranged, for the heating of shot for the piece above ; and a soldier, whose family had a dormitory there, was appointed to attend upon it. Early in the bombardment, this soldier was killed ; and his widow, either because she regarded herself as heir to his employments, or with a view to avenge her griefs, insisted on succeeding him in his igniferous task ; and it was

said that, throughout the day, she discharged her hazardous duty in the most exemplary manner; each time, when the glowing missile had been sent off on its destructive errand, watching its course across the strait, and if it chanced to strike a combustible part of the enemy's work, exulting in its success, as if it had been the special messenger of her vengeance. Our curiosity was all impatience to see this sort of Joan of Arc; the younger part of us at once investing her, in our imaginations, with all the reputed charms of the Gallic amazon. She was accordingly summoned to the roof; and we were sadly disappointed when we found the reality better answering the description of Meg Merillies than that of the Maid of Orleans. She was also without any traces of recent bereavement, having perhaps lost the widow in the heroine.

At this time, we were all on tiptoe of expectation, as to the result of the expedition against York, U. C. knowing that the fleet had borne a brigade against that place about simultaneously with our arrival at Fort Niagara. We likewise knew that some tremendous shock had taken place there, as the concussion had been slightly felt even on our side of the Lake, about forty miles distant; and some officers, who were at the time on the heights of Lewistown, saw a column of fire the following evening in that quarter, a faint light of which was observed even by us, when attention became directed that way. These signs were of a portentous character, and filled all minds with extreme solicitude and impatience. The more general conjecture seemed to be, that the Pike, our largest vessel in the expedition, had been blown up, and fancy was busy in calculating the deplorable consequences, when a precursor of the fleet brought over intelligence of the actual events, which, though disastrous enough, were not precisely those which had been predicted. The explosion proved to have been that of the enemy's powder magazine, supposed to have been fired intentionally, just as he was retreating, in order to destroy our advancing column. This supposition, at the time, appeared to be entertained by all, although many of his own soldiers were involved in the destruction that followed,—enough, one would think, to have discredited it, and to have assigned it to its probable cause, that is, accident. But that was not a moment for scanning probabilities, or very liberal considerations. An easy conquest had been purchased at a great cost, and Gen. Sheaffe, the British commandant, was believed to have resorted to this indefensible and atrocious means of injury, after he had abandoned all hope and intention of further resistance, and was on a full retreat.

The head of our column had approached within a few hundred yards of the magazine, when a temporary halt was made, in order that some pieces of light artillery, reversing an abandoned battery, might be arranged, so as to enfilade the town,

preparatory to a further advance. Most of the troops, during this interval, were relieving their fatigue by sitting or lying down on the ground in their ranks; thus inadvertently exposing themselves, in the most obnoxious manner, to the effects of the disaster that soon occurred. The magazine was constructed of stone, and the quantity of powder exploded in it, was sufficient to send aloft the whole mass in a shower of fragments. Although much extended, our troops were mostly within its wide-spreading penumbra, and a large portion too near for a possibility of escape. Astounded by the unexpected shock, they had hardly time to trace up the eruption through its rapid parabola, instinctively watching its direction, ere the heavy fragments came booming down on their devoted heads, with a directness and celerity, that seemed to admit no other precaution or defence, than that mere shrinking up or concentration of the form, which is the last resort of all animals under impending and seemingly inevitable destruction. Many were immediately crushed down to, and even into, the earth, ending their agonies at once in death or insensibility. But more were doomed to, perhaps, a less enviable fate, surviving with bodies maimed and mashed almost into deformity.

Each officer had his tale of adventures to tell, in answer to our eager inquiries. The sombre shades of the picture were sometimes enlivened by a dash of the comic. One artillery officer said, that, as he saw the petrescent shower descending, finding his gun alone holding out a semblance of shelter, he suddenly bowed himself at right angles under its friendly ægis, and escaped with only a few rents in those parts of his garments, which projected beyond the cover. Another, seeing an empty pork barrel at hand, made a rapid retreat of head and shoulders within its rotundity, leaving his nether man to bide the pelting of the pitiless storm. His remark was, that the falling stones beat a tattoo on the bilge of the barrel, which he thought was to put him to sleep forever. A third, somewhat given to jocular hyperbole, stated that, at the imminent moment, being reclining on the ground, a large soldier, who was rushing he knew not whither, without much respect for persons, stumbled and fell upon him; that, self-preservation, the first law of nature, at once suggested to his mind, that this shield, which had fallen upon him by chance, should be preserved by design. He accordingly seized on the flanks of the superincumbent soldier with an iron grip, maintaining him in precisely that happy state of interposition, which he had himself assumed, until the storm had passed. It was added by the narrator, that his protector received many contusions, and had some limbs broken, while he escaped with only a temporary sort of a night-mare.

Among the victims of this disastrous event, the most illus-



trious was Gen. Pike, who had the immediate command of the attack. He was seated on the ground at the moment of the explosion, awaiting the arrangement of the artillery alluded to before, and received a contusion on the spine, which left life only sufficient to enable him to reach the vessel, from which he had disembarked only a few hours before, in all the buoyancy of a gallant spirit. He was regretted by the whole army; and most of those officers at Niagara, who had served under him, when they heard of his untimely fate, lamented it in a manner that was a high eulogium on his character. Had he lived, that campaign which he began with so much animation and success, might have terminated more creditably to the army and satisfactorily to the country.

After the arrival of this precursor of the fleet, we were all on the *qui vive* for the return of the fleet itself. It was known that the plan was, after destroying the public property at York, and capturing or dispersing the garrison there, to join the forces at Niagara, and make an attack on Fort George. The fleet soon appeared, and anchored in the neighborhood. The troops were immediately disembarked at the four mile creek, and the wounded brought to Fort Niagara. Seldom has a hospital exhibited such a spectacle of misery. The patients of a military ward-room, especially those that come in after a battle, generally present a mixture of health and disability that are strangely contrasted, but which soften many of the revolting features of an infirmary. But in this case, although the victims were in high health when they were overwhelmed by the explosion, yet, such was the mashing effect of it, that the human form often lost all its distinctive characteristics, and looked like a shapeless mass of livid bloatedness. And, to fill up the cup of their misery, a cold rain came on, which, trickling through the crannied roof of the mess-house—which had been selected as the temporary hospital, seemingly out of more regard to the garrison, in comfortable quarters, than the unfortunate sufferers—drenched most of their scanty palliasses with water. It was a scene little likely to awaken in us, who had yet all the freshness and susceptibility of recruits, those animating feelings which should cheer the outset of a campaign. Those of us who were disposed to ask ourselves Falstaff's question about honor, found a ready answer in the spectacle before us.

But other thoughts were soon roused in our minds. The rain passed away; the sick were made more comfortable; and a new prospect began to open upon us. It was known that the fleet had proceeded to Sacket's Harbor, for the purpose of bringing up the Lake such reinforcements as were deemed necessary in the more important attack then in anticipation; as soon as we should see it at anchor again off the four mile creek, we knew that another trial was to be made of the enemy's vul-

nerability. As our force was now large, much transport was necessarily to be prepared. This work, together with other preliminary duties, filled the camp with occupation, and gave every thing an animated aspect. The troops, which were to embark in the new expedition—embracing all but a proper garrison for Fort Niagara,—were concentrated at four mile creek. This spot was still occupied by the virgin forest. The encampment was arranged on the two sides of the creek, with as much order as the trees would admit; and, as the May sun was shining out brilliantly over our heads, and the May flowers were springing up in beauty under our feet, all, at least those of us who had young hearts and excitable imaginations, forgot the past, and surrendered the future to kind Providence and smiling fortune. Those of that character who had the privilege of the stirrup and spur, made the saddle a familiar and almost constant seat. Our sleek and pampered steeds, richly caparisoned, were hourly at our tents, ready to bear us, like winged Mercuries, on our many errands of duty; now threading the mazes of the camp, prancing among the fluttering canvass and outstretched cords, with affected carelessness, but in reality, with reins guided by an unerring hand; or, at intervals of leisure, galloping through the woods, pleased to encounter a prostrate tree, which only lent occasion for a deer-like bound, in all the gallant coxcombrity of youthful ardor. We rose with the reveillée, that ushered in the dawn, where, as yet, no cock had ever crowed; awaited, with sharp and ready appetites, for “pease upon the trencher,” that announced the hour of breakfast; dined at the sound, if not on the substance, of “roast beef;” and closed the curtains of our tents with the last stroke of the tattoo. The nights were clear and starry, and the dews of heaven, descending through the leafy canopy above, and the spreading canvass beneath, fell so attempered on our couches, as scarcely to be felt. When they came down, chilled by one of those frosts that will sometimes linger on the lap of May, we were accustomed to borrow from the culinary fire at hand, a few glowing coals, which were deposited in a slight excavation in the centre of the tent. Stretched on our camp-stools for the night, with a blanket and our martial cloak wrapped closely around us, it was soothing to sink into slumber, watching the glowing hearth, and feeling its genial warmth. It was comfort in miniature. This slumber was generally at hand; and, as the eyes closed, the senses were at once steeped in forgetfulness. But if the mind, as was sometimes the case, wished to take advantage of the quiet hour, to give recollection or reflection that range which was denied by the stirring scenes of the day, the time and place was in harmony with such a mood. After the bright coals had thrown over the last glimmer their cinerous shroud, as if in sympathy with the general repose, it was but to

turn the eyes on the canvass above, and, while endeavoring to trace out the faintly shadowed outlines of the lofty trees above, and listening to the whispering sound of their breezy agitations, reveries, dwelling either on past enjoyments, or coming glories, could be indulged to the heart's content. There was something in the stillness around, interrupted only occasionally by the measured tread of the relief, as it made its periodical circuit, so strongly contrasted with the babel-like bustle of the day, that, in a dreamy moment, one could hardly believe that the forest had not, by some magic, been restored to its primitive silence and solitude, and the thousands which had lately peopled it been suddenly spirited away.

The boats, which were destined to transport the troops and artillery to the enemy's shore, had mostly been built about five miles up the Niagara river. The progress of this work had been closely watched from the other side. No attempt had been made to cross and interrupt it, though constantly apprehended; but it was believed that, whenever the larger ones should be launched in the river, preparatory to a descent to the Lake, that the enemy would open on them all his means of annoyance and destruction. Some stratagem was necessary to avoid this, and night was, of course, the only time suited to such an operation; as, under its cover, the boats might possibly escape unobserved, or be subject only to the random shots of darkness. When they were all ready for descent, it was determined to cause a diversion of the enemy's attention, by a bombardment from Fort Niagara. Accordingly, when the night arrived, designated for this movement, the stillness of the evening was suddenly broken by a reverberating mortar, which sent a bomb high in the air, so that even we, who were in the camp, could mark the apex of its glowing curve in the dark heavens, as it ascended for a moment above the leafy horizon around us, though quickly disappearing, and leaving the ear to await that smothered percussion, which told when it had finished its destructive errand. While the enemy was engaged in watching and dodging these unwelcome and rather unexpected visitants, the flotilla was quietly launched above, and sent down, under cover of the darkness and confusion, so as to reach our encampment without any material injury.

Deserters were occasionally coming in, and such was the anxiety for getting information, that the scoundrels were always greeted with a hearty welcome. They were all subjected to a severe inquisition at head quarters, respecting the strength, position of the enemy, and, above all, whether he had any *mines* to spring. The explosion at York had naturally left a strong impression on the minds of all, and it was believed that this villainous use of the villainous salt petre, was to be a common mode of warfare with the British. There was a light-house on

the point opposite to Fort Niagara, which, being constructed of stone, and near the place where the landing would likely be made, was supposed to present irresistible temptations to a renewal of the tragedy of York. Every deserter denied any knowledge of such an intention, and expressed a belief that the light-house would be an immovable as well as insensible spectator of any conflicts that might be carried on around it. Still there were probably few persons in the American camp, from the General down to the drummer-boy, who did not think it prudent, that all movements in that quarter should give it a wide birth.

The fleet was now hourly expected from Sacket's Harbor, immediately after the arrival of which the meditated attack was to be made. The near approach of such an event, naturally made it the topic of much conversation, and doubtless occupied most of our thoughts. Those of us who had not seen the face of the enemy, nor "smelt gunpowder," in the technical sense of the phrase, regarded it with more anxiety than we were willing to confess. It was somewhat amusing to see the contrast between us, who had our maiden fight yet to come, and those who, at York, had passed through the ordeal. When they fancied our hearts began to fail us, they would cast a patronizing look upon us, and seem to say, "cheer up—we will show you the way." There was a difference in the aspect and bearing of the two classes. The heroes of York assumed the privilege of wearing their caps more on one side, of giving greater latitude to their whiskers, and particularly of cultivating large mustachios. Some of us unfledged ones had also permitted the latter to encroach on the upper lip; but we wore them with a less confident air, and seldom, while conversing, ventured to devote a thumb and finger constantly to them, for the double purpose of calling attention to them, and giving them that Turk-like twist, which was deemed the perfection of these labial ornaments. There were some other distinctions equally obvious. While we, the "spinsters" of the camp, modestly wore our unfleshed swords in the sheath, excepting when on parade, almost ashamed of their brightness, many of the Yorkers were in the habit of carrying a naked weapon on all occasions, with no scabbard at the belt, as if it had been thrown away as a useless incumbrance, at the opening of the campaign. This weapon had little more lustre, and full as much edge, as a mower's scythe; and was brandished about with a grace and dexterity, that showed the hilt to be perfectly at home in the hand, every now and then decapitating a high weed or a low bush, as an example of the fare an enemy might receive if he stood in the place of either.

But, notwithstanding these little coxcombries, the Yorkers were entitled to a precedence, and we all regarded the chances



of the coming enterprise, as being greatly improved by the dash of experience and well-tried gallantry, which they threw into our force. And all that shyness of intercourse, which for a brief time, prevailed between the two parties, soon yielded to more frank and soldierly feeling. A camp is the crucible for amalgamation. It demands either open enmity, or right down fellowship. The former is an occasional storm, that thunders and lightens and strikes for a moment, and then all is the more clear and sunny. A lukewarm regard implies a distrust that calls for explanation. The bubble reputation there, cannot bear the slightest puncture; for if a breath escape, it bursts and vanishes. Besides, the hospitality of a camp is free and primitive as that of a huddle of wigwams. There is neither knocker nor latch to the entrance of a tent. The folds are thrown back, and bespeak an open house and an open heart. Our wine cask, too, which stood at the threshold, with a ready spigot, had its attractions; and by the time the fleet arrived from Sacket's Harbor, all distinctive shades had disappeared, and no other thought prevailed, than who should best perform his part in the approaching drama.

Every preparation having been made, when we beheld the fleet throwing down its anchors abreast our encampment, we knew that the order for "crossing" would soon follow. Such was the fact. Head quarters were about a mile from the camp. Staff officers were shortly seen coming thence with slackened reins and foaming bit; and adjutants, at the well known signal, were immediately observed, with their orderly books, hurrying to Brigade head quarters. Having finished their errand with rapid penmanship, after a brief interval, another beat concentrated each regiment on its ground, when the important tidings, which had but just, as it were, left the mouth of the General in Chief, reached the ear of every private soldier. During the lapse of these few pregnant minutes, scarcely a whisper was heard throughout the camp, all being hushed to the quiet of heedful expectation. The sudden movement of some thousands of feet, set in simultaneous motion by the dismissal of the regiments, and the hum of half as many tongues let loose at the same moment, soon told that every bosom had caught the animating spirit of a change.

Although it was supposed that every preliminary had been attended to, and that the order would find no hindrance to an immediate execution, yet, when the responsible hour arrived, and each officer looked with anxious scrutiny into his state of readiness, enough was ascertained to be still undone, to cause much bustle, hurry and confusion. Besides, there were some things which necessarily appertain to the last moment, and can only follow the order; such as the contents of the *haversack*, &c. The commissariat was now all in a hurly-burly, to replen-

ish these important receptacles; and fires began to send up their ruddy flames on every side, betokening the full progress of concoction. The quartermasters, too, were seen impatiently completing those arrangements relative to the transports, which, although completed a thousand times, always leave something supplemental to be done. As the whole movement was to be made in boats, and these boats were to be moved by oars, these "wooden sails" were objects of the most covetous regard.—Notwithstanding all possible attention to provide a due supply, many a boat, in this time of need, was found to be deficient,—at least, without that full complement that was deemed essential by the officer whose fortunes were to be embarked in it. To purloin in such a case, particularly to exchange a bad for a good oar, was not considered *contra bonos mores*; unless, according to the Spartan rule, the despoiler was detected; and much furtive adroitness was exerted on the occasion, the "game of grab," as it was termed, being the order of the day. Some, who disdained to take lessons in it, who could not stoop to conquer, perhaps regretted their fastidiousness, when it was too late.

Night had now some time shut in, the tattoo having been dispensed with, in order that all preparations might be fully completed. This having been done by the second watch of the night, and the men finding leisure on their hands, which they must employ either in sleep, or reflections on the coming day, they naturally, in the absence of all inclination for the former, began to devise means of banishing the latter. It so happened, that *back rations* of candles, to a considerable amount, had been issued about this time. This store of lights, on the eve of an event, the result of which no one could anticipate, seemed to have no value; and it appeared suddenly to occur to the troops, that they could not be better employed than in dispersing the gloom of that interval, which must precede the anxiously expected dawn. Accordingly, little flickering blazes began gradually to gem the front of every tent. In a short time, the lower branches of the small trees at hand were studded in the same way, and seemed to bloom in light. It was a brilliant and fanciful sight to the spectators on the side of the creek opposite to this sylvan illumination. As the busy actors in this scene watched its development, they appeared to catch enthusiasm from its success. The galaxy was seen to rise by degrees, until it reached the tallest trees that overshadowed the tents, and the whole forest glowed with effulgence and beauty. Not a breath of air was in the heavens to disturb the tiny lustres. To complete the garishness of the exhibition, many of the barrels, which this large call on the commissariat had left empty and discarded, were seized on by the purveyors of these pyrotechnicks, and enkindled beneath the trees, sending up a

ruddy glare that bedimmed the lesser lights above. Thousands of gladsome voices, mingling with the merry laugh and joyous shout, were heard around. As no enemy was near, to take advantage of discipline thus let loose, the hilarity was permitted to exhaust itself unchecked. Many a heart was thus made light, that might have saddened during the vigil of a night that so inevitably ushered in the hazards of a battle.

But this accidental Saturnalia gradually died away. The fading tapers among the trees became extinct one after another, and the shadows of night resumed their dominion, save where the remains of a half-burnt cask still sent up an occasional glimmer. And, as these excitements subsided into darkness, the hum of the soldiers also sunk into silence; until the sentinels, who, amid this tumult, had imperturbably walked their posts, were alone awake, and watching the descending stars, whose successive disappearance beneath the western horizon, marked that brief interval which kept back the coming day.

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

### PETTY OFFICERS OF THE NAVY.

The want of good petty officers and of seamen, is daily felt in the Naval service of the United States; and in my opinion, loudly calls on those practically conversant with details, to offer such ideas to the public, as experience or theory may suggest, to remedy the growing evil. What appears to me singular, is, that the subject should not long since have engaged, more actively, the attention of Government, and that a call has not been made on the Board of Navy Commissioners, to devise some plan calculated to afford future relief or remedy. This has not been done, or if it has, no project, that I know of, has been made public. As a friend to the Navy, I have thought much on the subject; I feel conscious that the marine armament of my country is identified with its prosperity; and that, sooner or later, we shall depend upon it as the most important national instrument of offence or defence. With such impressions I trust and hope that what I am about to suggest, may meet with all the indulgence that good intentions merit, whether deemed practicable or otherwise. I shall be satisfied, however, should my views lead others, more competent than myself, to take up the subject.

Our present Naval establishment is, when we look back but a few years, and compare what it was with what it now is, like in its rapid growth to the palaces thrown up by the power of

Aladdin's wonderful lamp. Seamen, however, (without which that establishment must languish,) cannot be made with the same facility; unless, indeed, measures be taken to encourage and reward men who devote themselves to a profession, in which fatigue and privation of every kind must be endured, before attaining even the slightest insight into their qualifications and duties. In the merchant service of our country, it is common to have what are called apprentices, bound either to the master or owner of the vessel, to serve a certain number of years. These boys, if they conduct themselves well, are generally, after five or six years service on board ship, advanced to the situation of mate, and progressively onward, until they arrive at a command.

But our merchants do not always like to assume responsibilities of this kind, and many parents, who would gladly avail themselves of this mode to give professions to their sons, are prevented by a maternal and laudable reluctance, to throw them on the world without some moral guide or instructor.

Now I would ask, why should not the United States enter into contracts of this nature and for this purpose? I know of no good reason to prevent it; but on the contrary, am satisfied that if done, the Navy of our country would, in a very few years, have all the subordinate stations on board a vessel of war, filled by native Americans, competent and willing to devote their lives and talents to its service. Our public vessels, when fully manned and officered, afford the best school for the description of seamen most wanted in the Navy,—such as boatswains, gunners, carpenters, and sail makers; mates to all the above mentioned classes of officers, as also quartermasters, quartergunners, &c.

The four first mentioned are, in the Navy of the United States, warranted officers; are provided with comfortable quarters on board ship, and find no inconsiderable respect attached to their stations, being subordinate, in a Naval point of view, only to the commander and lieutenants of the vessel. I am credibly informed, that at this moment, but few belong to the Navy, in all the above named situations, who can either read or write.

How, then, can these men be justly held responsible (as, by the rules of the Naval service they are,) for expenditures to an immense amount? They are, and must be, dependent upon the honesty of some aid or assistant, who is generally placed to superintend the delivery of articles from the store room.

The utter ignorance of this class of officers is so notorious, that I have frequently heard the officers of the Navy express the wish that some means could be adopted to fill their stations with more competent men. I would therefore suggest as a remedy, that all the public vessels take on board a certain num-



ber of boys, from 12 to 14 years of age ; that they should be bound by articles of agreement, entered into between the parents or guardians and the United States, to serve the United States, either at the Navy Yard, or on board the public vessels, until they arrive at the age of 21 ; the United States reserving the right to discharge any one guilty of misconduct, at any moment they may think proper ; engaging to provide them, at the Navy Yards, or on board the public ships, with a competent officer, who shall instruct them in reading, writing, and cyphering ; to clothe and feed them at the public expense ; and to pay them a sum of money not to exceed two dollars per month ; that so soon as these boys shall have passed three years at sea, and can produce from their commanding officer a certificate of good conduct and capability, they shall be permitted to select for themselves a permanent situation in the Navy, in either of the stations of boatswain, gunner, carpenter, or sail maker ; and that they shall be numbered as they are transferred to each situation. My own opinion is, that so great a number of valuable petty officers and of seamen, would be produced by this regulation, that it would be found necessary to provide for many who might otherwise be idle for years. I, therefore, further suggest, that after having made their selection, they be compelled to pass through all the grades, as follows :—the one selecting the office of boatswain should, when competent to the duties, be first rated seaman, then boatswain's mate ; the eldest of them having passed through the prior grades, should, in the event of the death or dismissal of any boatswain, fall heir to his station—provided always that he has equal merits to those below him ; the same course should be adopted as relates to the situation of gunner, the carpenter, and sail maker ; they should complete their professional educations at the different Navy Yards.

In submitting the above ideas to the public, and to Naval officers in particular, I must offer my apology to the latter for any errors that I may have inadvertently committed.

I am only a

LANDSMAN.

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#### MILITIA OF THE UNITED STATES.

(Continued from page 243.)

Experience having thus produced the conviction that a department under the direction of a responsible officer, is essential for the regulation of the Militia, the inquiry becomes pertinent, why should not the National Government adopt the means which, under its authority, the several States enjoy for

the management of this important interest, and provide for the appointment of an officer whose whole duty it shall be to attend to Militia concerns, and thus open to itself a channel of information similar to that which it possesses in every other branch of its authority?

Though the utility of the proposed measure is almost sufficiently apparent, without further illustration, yet its advantages will be more conspicuous when the power and duties of the officer shall be pointed out. But before this is attempted, lest any one should suppose that there might be a constitutional impediment to the arrangement arising from the power of the states to provide for the appointment of all militia officers, it becomes necessary to make the previous remark, that the officer for whose appointment legal provision is proposed, would be an officer of the United States, and not a militia officer. If it were not so, the constitutional obstacle would be paramount. The United States' Adjutant General of the Militia, would be provided for the bureau, and, as he would of course have no command, there would be no more constitutional impediment to the Congressional provision that all the returns of the militia of the several states should be made to the President through the Adjutant General of the Militia, and that he should prescribe the forms of those returns, than there is, that they should be made through the Secretary of War, and that he should perform that duty, as is the case by the existing provision. Now, for the want of an officer who by law is obliged distinctly to attend to militia concerns, all the duty of the Secretary relating to them is performed *ex gratia* by the Adjutant General of the Army. Thus the returning officers of the militia of the several states, make their returns to, and receive their forms from, an officer of the General Staff of the Army, inferior to them in rank, and, to the constitutional authority and control of whose principal, they are not subject.

The jealousy of concentrated power which existed at the adoption of the Constitution, caused the states, when they granted to the federal government the unlimited power to maintain armies, build navies, and raise revenues, to reserve to themselves the militia force, except when its use defensively might be required for the preservation of the national domain and peace, against foreign foes and rebellious subjects. This power must then be considered as the grand physical characteristic of state sovereignty. Without it, the pillars of the Union would be too slender to support the national fabric. Those therefore who have a just estimate of the importance of the state sovereignties for upholding the national structure, will be careful to avoid the amalgamation of the national and state forces, even so far as their holding correspondence with, and making their returns through, the same member of the general staff, has a tendency to produce it.

Viewed in this light alone, the suggestion must strike every one as an improvement in the present practice. For, as the army and militia are different bodies, the one exclusively a national, and the other, (except in actual service, under the command of the President,) definitely a state force, their distinctive character should forever be preserved. Besides, as the habits and character of the army and militia are different, the instructions must be different, and the forms of returns different, according to the organization and habits of duty in each, the expediency, even if no other consideration presented, is illustrated of having a separate officer assigned to each branch of service.

Notwithstanding the extent of this great state reservation, so long as the body politic preserves its moral strength, the most important, and, indeed, almost the only cases in which the militia will be called into service, will be under the federal power. Considering it then as a muscle in the national arm, the militia should be so arranged as always to co-operate with the army. The United States' Adjutant General of the Militia should consequently be attached to the War Department, so that the orders of the President to these national forces should pass to their destination through the same primary organ. The rank of the Adjutants General of the several states, should be fixed by Congress, as is that of other officers, and the United States' Adjutant General should have precedence of them ; so that when called to act on Boards of Officers, or otherwise, conjointly with officers of the army or militia, he should rank the latter. He should reside at the seat of government of the United States ; and the returns of the whole body of the militia in peace, and that part of it which is not detached for the national service in war, or other periods of constitutional emergency, would be made through the Adjutant General of the Militia ; while those of the troops placed in the service of the United States, would be made by the officers commanding them, under the authority of the President, through the office of the Adjutant General of the Army, as at present.

As no confusion would result from this organization, then, let us look more minutely into the authority of the additional officer, that we may judge of its benefit.

Among other duties, the United States' Adjutant General of the Militia shall be obliged to furnish blank forms of all the different returns that may be required, and to explain the principles on which they shall be made : to prepare and distribute to the several states, books of instruction, suited to the militia organization, for the drill and exercise of all the various corps of which the militia consists, according to the system of discipline prescribed for the army ; and adopt all necessary and proper means for bringing the system into general use ; to receive

all the returns of the militia of the several states and territories, and to make abstracts of the same once in every year, exhibiting the number of divisions, brigades, regiments, battalions, and companies: of what corps they consist; the strength of each, the number of officers and men, and the condition of their arms, accoutrements, and ammunition. He shall also make inquiries respecting the local boundaries, and extent of the different divisions of the militia, the state of their organization and drill, and the force which can be brought to the defence of their important neighboring positions in any given time, obtain the information needed to enable the President to call for the militia of the several States, or any particular division of it, under the act of Congress in 1795, to the greatest public advantage, and by his returns, the number of men which are taken into the national employ, the divisions from which they are detached, and the effective strength which remains in reserve, either for future drafts, or to guard against unexpected attacks, shall always appear. He will likewise prepare forms for the return of all the arms and equipments furnished the several States and Territories, under the act of the 23d of April, 1808, "for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States," exhibiting the manner in which they are kept, or how they are distributed; of books of instruction, and of all other property, which shall be furnished to the militia, at the expense of the Government. He shall collect as much information as can be obtained, relating to magazines and arsenals, belonging to the States or individuals; the quantity of powder and military stores deposited in them; the manufactories of gunpowder, muskets, rifles, swords, and other implements of war; the number of men employed, and the quantity which can be produced in any given time, at each establishment; the situation of cannon foundries, and furnaces for casting shot; the facilities of transportation, and the cost of it by land and water. He shall communicate to the Adjutants General of the several States, such information as shall be furnished to him from the Ordnance Department, relative to the best mode of keeping and preserving muskets and other fire arms, of cleaning and preserving leather harness, cartouch boxes, bayonet and sword scabbards, belts, straps, and all other military equipments; and also relating to the making of gun carriages, ammunition wagons, tumbrils and caissons, so as to produce an uniformity in their construction throughout the United States. And to cause punctuality and accuracy in the returns of the militia of the several States and Territories, provision shall be made, (if the law does not now admit of that interpretation) that the arms and equipments procured under the act of Congress, "for arming and equipping the whole body of the militia of the United States," shall be distributed among the several States and Ter-



ritories, according to the returns made of their militia for the year preceding each annual distribution. In fact, he shall collect all the information relating to the strength and condition of the militia, the materials of defence, which the country can furnish; the cost of purchase and transportation; shall keep regular files of the papers received, and a record of his correspondence; and, besides his annual returns, when called upon, he shall communicate such information to the President, as his bureau will furnish; and be liable to all such duties relating to the objects of his appointment, as the President shall assign to him.

If military men should think that a part of these duties could more properly be attached to other bureaus, it will not be controverted, it is presumed, that all the facts and information herein pointed out, are necessary to be had, and should be collected for the Government by some mean or other. In the absence of all provision for this purpose, at present, these duties have, therefore, herein been assigned to the new officer, as the first step in the work of reformation, leaving to time and experience, that more orderly arrangement or subdivision of the whole duties of the War Department, which shall appear to be most expedient.

It is also necessary to remark, that the idea is not designed to be conveyed that all the duties of the office are comprehended in the foregoing enumeration. Enough only was intended to be shewn, to remove any doubt that the new office would be one of great utility, and that it would require the undivided and assiduous attention of at least one person for its methodical arrangement and laborious duty.

This plan, it will be perceived, has nothing new in it; but is suggested, in furtherance of the system, which, in the late organization of the Army, has wisely been introduced, providing for the residence, at Washington, of intelligent officers at the head of each Department or branch of its concerns, to collect such facts and details as the state of the country may, at any time, require for the Government's use. The President has now no officer to call upon for answers to his inquiries respecting the militia, except the Secretary of War, who, under the existing organization, possesses no official information other than such as is afforded by the present incomplete abstracts of the Annual Returns of the States and Territories, some of which have not made any for several years. He has no officer subject to his command, whom he can assign to any of those various duties, which the importance of the institution requires should be performed by a person properly qualified by intelligence and experience. The paucity of the President's information alone, and the impossibility of his obtaining it under the present system, even if no prospective advantage was likely

to be derived from it, affords an important motive for the adoption of the measure proposed. Though the positive advantages are thus shewn to be of no small consideration, the prospective are much greater; for, in the light in which the subject is viewed after long contemplation, this appears to be the best, if not the only mode, by which those improvements can eventually be made in the militia of the United States, which its capacity admits, and its present condition requires. That there will be some delay attending it, is admitted; but this will be no greater than the difficulties of the case itself create. If all the country was like New England, with the experience that is there attained, certain specific amendments to the laws might be advantageously proposed. But that is not the case. In this immense territory, the habits and customs of the people differ from each other; education, and the means of obtaining it, are widely different; the wants and necessities, the resources and objects of the several States and Territories, essentially vary from each other. What, therefore, would be useful to one, might be injurious to another. An uniform national militia, in a confederacy of sovereign States, is a desideratum, the practicability of establishing which is doubted by many, though none doubt its utility, if it can be accomplished. Shall so great an object be abandoned, then, without even an examination of the difficulties which attend it? If we would inquire into these, we shall find that some of them are habitual, and the strength of these is daily increasing; but that the most important are constitutional. These latter are not, however, supposed to be greater than those which have attended the true construction of the National and State powers in other branches of authority, and which the experience of every year is illustrating and defining. While the obstacles of habit are to be removed by new and improved practices, those emanating from constitutional provisions, it is thought, by examination, will be found to be less consequential than has been imagined. Like those arising under the judiciary power, they require only to be investigated and settled, to strengthen the connexion, and ensure the continuance of that harmonious co-operation between the State and Federal Governments, which every new decision is in practice producing. In reasoning upon constitutional barriers, with the view to an uniform system of operation in any one branch of authority, the magnitude of the impediment is often such as to make the sanguine wish for its removal by a greater concentration of power under one authority. But a recurrence to the system of checks and balances, which forms the peculiar character of our frame of Government, when its general influence is considered, will teach us that it is those very distinguishing features which preserve its identity, and which alone will secure its duration. Let us

not be uneasy under them, therefore ; nor look upon the Federal Government as a foreign Government made for us, and not by us ; as independent of public opinion, and not, as it is in truth, founded upon it, and receiving its daily support from that general concurrence in all its acts, which shews that the exercise of all its power is reduced to the standard of human reason. We need not fear that the same public sentiment which supports the one in all its authority, will restrain the other from usurpation ; and that the united approbation of the public, which strengthens the measures of the one, will incite the other to the exercise of its co-ordinate powers. Let the National Government be content, then, with the authority which is given, and use it under the restraints imposed. Take the grant by its terms, and concede the reservation according to its intent, and thus unfasten that public jealousy, which, more than any constitutional provision, has impeded our political progress. When the United States' Government executes its own powers wisely, that public sentiment, which approves it, will produce such correlative provisions under the State authorities as are necessary. Both Governments are Governments of the People, and of the same People. Let public opinion, the great corrective of public abuse, and, at the same time, the highest incentive to patriotic exertion, be appealed to, and it need not be feared, that any constitutional object will be effected, under our present forms of Government, however complex they seem to many, if it be approved ; and, if it be otherwise, whether the authority over the subject be single or co-ordinate, it matters not : for vain would be the attempt to exercise it.

The embarrassment, then, which exists to making a perfectly national militia, arises under the power reserved to the States by the Constitution to provide for officering and training the militia ; while that for organizing, arming, and equipping it, and establishing the system of its discipline, is granted to the National Government. This simple enumeration shews these to be dependent powers, and it sufficiently exposes the necessity of the joint co-operation of both Governments for the advancement of the system in practice to the point intended at the time of its adoption. For it is at once apparent that the power of Congress to organize, arm, and equip, the militia, and establish its system of discipline, is of no use, unless the officers to command it are provided by the States, and the troops are disciplined according to the system prescribed. The States, who made the grant to the Federal Government of their militia powers, did it with an implied obligation of co-operation on their own part with the co-ordinate powers they reserved. The object in view warrants the belief that, but for such an understanding, the grant would not even have been accepted. But, that in different States, different modes for appointing officers

should be provided, and that a difference of sentiment should exist among them, respecting the extent of their obligation to train the militia after it is organized and officered, was to be supposed; and this, of itself, is sufficient to create serious impediments to making an entirely uniform national militia by Congressional provision solely. But though the National Government cannot do every thing to the accomplishment of this great object, it can do much. It can at least exercise the powers it has, and cease to claim those it has not.

It can conform the organization, and numbers, and rank of the officers of the militia, to the most improved modes, and thus make the rules, provided for the exercise and manœuvres of the army, applicable in practice, as they are by statute, to the militia. Definitely establishing the form of the militia organization, it will no longer permit this, the most important of all its powers, relating to this subject, to be rendered inoperative, at the "convenience" of the States. Better is it, at once, for the United States to relinquish the power, than, after having established its form, not to require its execution. We should then expect to find an uniformity of organization in each State, at least, whereas we now see companies containing from twenty to two hundred and fifty privates; regiments, from five to sixteen companies, composed sometimes entirely of infantry, sometimes of a part, and sometimes nearly of all the different corps of cavalry, artillery, infantry, light infantry, grenadiers, and riflemen, of which the militia consist, and containing from three hundred to fifteen hundred men. If the several States had the responsibility of this power, the unmilitary arrangement of eight regiments to a brigade, and of seven brigades, instead of two, to a division, would not be seen in any. All this deformity arises from the operation of the existing laws, defeating the design of those who granted the power to the National Government, for the sake of ensuring a perfect uniformity of organization.

It can provide arms and equipments for both officers and soldiers, and authorize the delivery of colors and musical instruments from the national armories. Thus it would relieve those whose expenses and burdens are heavy and unequal, instead of attempting to impose on them an obligation which it has not the constitutional power to enforce. It is true, that Congress has power to provide arms and equipments for the militia, but its authority to require the colors to be furnished at the expense of the field officers, and the musical instruments by the company officers, will be considered as vain as it would be for it to exact from those holding civil offices, under State authority, pecuniary, or other grants, proportioned to their elevation, and its means of enforcing the penalties of disobedience would be no greater upon the military than the civil



officers. The same observation may be applied to uniforming the militia, which is not only not one of the ceded powers, but is one which can both more economically and properly be exercised by the States, who may thus establish, for each, such characteristic marks or badges, as will, when the troops of several States are together, distinguish the line of each from the other, and from the line of the army. These are attempts at legitimate legislation, which diminish the dignity of the enacting authority, and lessen the respect of those from whom submission is expected.

It can establish a system of discipline for the artillery and cavalry, as well as for the infantry.

It can provide and distribute books of instruction to the officers, and thus secure a uniformity in the words of command, of exercise, and manœuvres, throughout the Union ; and, as the power of Congress to compel the attendance of militia officers at drills, for instruction, is not generally admitted, if it will furnish instructors to such of the States as choose to avail themselves of the advantage furnished, it need not be questioned that the opportunity will be embraced to the extent of the provision.

It can provide for the appointment of Aids de Camps to the Commander in Chief of the several States, and other necessary officers, and fix the rank of some whose appointment is now provided for.

It can more accurately define the mode of arming the several corps, and make some improvement in the selection of arms to be used.

It can revise the provision for inspecting the troops which is insufficient, and for returning them, which is not only fixed at an inconvenient period for the use of the Government, but is incomplete also in its details.

It can provide rules for the police of the militia, and add many necessary practical regulations.

It can relieve the elder class of those who are now enrolled, from duty in time of peace : for it certainly cannot be necessary to require so great a proportion of the whole to be enrolled, as was expedient when the population, upon the same territory, was about one-third the present number, and our other means of defence incomparably less. But if there are any particular parts of the country, the character of whose population requires the keeping up a large military force in peace as well as war, the power can safely be left with the States to make additional enrolments, it being fairly to be presumed, that no State will impose a burden on its citizens, which its own peculiar exigencies do not require.

Above all, it can take back to its own exercise the power of exemption, which, under the State authorities, has been

used more destructively to the spirit of the militia, than even to its numerical force.

It can also do much, in other ways, to encourage the ambition of the officers and the pride of the soldiers, so indispensable to the preservation of the system in any degree of respectability, and no measure would be more likely to have this tendency, and produce the conviction that the General Government intended to extend its protection to the militia, than the appointment of a Staff Officer, to represent their interest, and become the official organ of their communications, at the seat of the National Government.

One of the most immediate and best effects of these measures will be to inform the public mind, which, not being obliged to reflect on principles that it is not called on to apply, is now too much influenced by the interested sentiments of those who proclaim a privilege a burden, and make individual hardships national calamities. The patronage of the Government will undeceive the ignorant, disarm the cunning, and cause the thinking part of the community to reflect on the advantages, in a republican Government, of placing arms in the hands of the whole people, and of training them to their use.— Thus public opinion, the power with which the laws in all Governments must ultimately accord, and whose effects, on those which are free, are almost immediate, will be enlightened. Let a change in the militia system be decreed by public sentiment, (and it surely will be, when a clear perception of the best mode of effecting it is entertained,) and it matters not whether the powers to accomplish it belong, in whole, or in part, to the State, or the United States; whether they be co-ordinate, dependent, or contingent, their exercise will be commanded. Such patronage will make the militia service respectable, and its offices desirable. Consequently men of higher attainments will be found in authority, an interest felt in the institution, and an influence created in the community, which will add much to the dignity and utility of the institution in peace, and to its strength in war. But the States alone can do nothing. The United States must begin the grand work of militia reform. The States have a right to demand it at their hands. The militia is their force, the service of which they have authorized the United States to use on certain occasions, and as these are the most important of any in which it will be called to act, they have yielded to that Government the important powers to organize and arm it, and to establish its discipline. Certainly this would never have been done, but under the full belief that those powers would be exercised; but having ceded them, the States may with great propriety claim their execution, in fulfilment of the implied obligation, which was the consideration of the grant, that thereby the force employed should be fitted for the service for which it is destined.

It is not herein intended to impute to the national councils a want of disposition to comply with their obligations. The cause of the evil does not arise from this source, but rather from the want of a satisfactory conviction in their mind that the remedies which have been proposed would answer their design; nor, by the remark, that, by the adoption of measures for the improvement of the militia such as have been suggested, or others which shall effect the same objects, the poorer class of citizens will be relieved, do we wish to be understood as claiming for the poor *exclusive benefits*: our only wish is to relieve them from *exclusive hardships*. It is not to be denied, that the efficient militia is, in a great degree, composed of such as have not influence enough to obtain any of the numerous exempting offices, or pecuniary means to pay the forfeitures of non-compliance with legal requisitions. The claim we make, therefore, is one of justice to them not only, but it is one that can be allowed without injustice to others; and, until it can be shown why those who fill the ranks of the militia, those, in fact, who do the work, why they should be obliged to provide arms for the defence of the whole, without aid from any: why they should spend their time, without remuneration or other marks of consideration from those who share the advantage: furnish their own ammunition and rations, and pay the expenses of assembling, without assistance from their exempted and wealthier neighbors, whose property is a principal object of defence; the claim will continue to be urged on the strong ground of justice and equality.

It is believed that there is no department of the Government that deserves more attention than the militia: none in which the defects of the system are more apparent; none which is more susceptible of improvement; none about which public sentiment is more divided; none which is attended with more extraneous difficulties; but all of which may be traced to the want of those facts, and that information which, in all affairs, is indispensable to enlightened reform. It is not expected that all these difficulties can be removed at once. But, let the inquiry be commenced, and the subject examined; let the habits and interests of the different sections of the Union be consulted; let the powers granted and those reserved by the States be considered; let amendments be the result of knowledge; let facts be collected, information communicated, and public sentiment enlightened, and reformation will surely follow.

This will not be an untried experiment. Its utility has been tested, and its result is exhibited in those States where the concerns of the militia are systematically conducted according to the provisions of their Legislatures requiring it. How much more necessary it is that the President should have the advantage which would result from the establishment of a similar de-

partment at the seat of the Government of the Union, the comparative extent of his authority sufficiently demonstrates.

But though the laws for the regulation and government of the militia are defective, unequal, and oppressive, the principles upon which the system is founded are correct. They have been tested by experience, and carried into operation in the incomplete mode which is at present adopted, have already produced, as we often hear it remarked, a militia which Europe does not exhibit. But does it satisfy us, that those who have as much to fear as we have to hope from such an institution, have not brought it to the same degree of perfection as ourselves? Will the independent People of America, who place their chief military and their whole civil dependence on this force, be satisfied with having a militia which is only, comparatively, better than that of Governments which resort to it always with fear, and never place arms in the hands of the People but when the invader is at hand? The possession of muskets by all the able bodied men of a country, gives to them that perfect sense of their own freedom, which causes each, in his own castle, to stand, like a sentinel, watching his liberty. "If France had such a militia," said a late distinguished visiter, when he received the salute of six thousand of them, "she would have a free Government." The militia is the preserving power of republicanism. What would dissolve arbitrary governments, confirms and strengthens the free. It can hardly be believed that a community which, against all existing precedents, had the intelligence to found a system of self-government upon the basis of original equality of privilege and power, and the virtue to maintain it, to the delight of the philanthropist, and the fear of the selfish and powerful, will ever forget that a self-depending must always be a self-defending power. Those who have set the world an example of unequalled wisdom in their civil institutions, derive too much pride and gratification from them to neglect the means of their preservation.

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#### HINTS FOR A MILITARY AND NAVAL

##### PROVIDENT SOCIETY.

The utility and expediency of provident societies, having in view the permanent support of families otherwise dependent upon the lives of their natural protectors, have been so thoroughly tested by experience, and their advantages so generally felt and acknowledged, that argument upon the subject



would be superfluous. Within the last twenty years, almost every class of our citizens, actuated by a laudable care for the future, have enrolled themselves in some such society; and families who would have been thrown, by the death of a husband, father, or brother, upon the cold and reluctant charities of the world, have been thus saved from want, and the still greater misery of dependence. It has struck us as somewhat surprising, that our military and naval officers have hitherto seemed inattentive to the good example set them, and that nothing has been attempted, in their behalf, towards the institution of a similar society, to embrace all ranks of both services. Perhaps this apparent indifference, in an affair which has excited so much interest in other classes, may be the mere result of accident, and that nothing more is wanted than the formal proposition of a plan for a *Military and Naval Provident Society*, to ensure its general adoption. Our elder officers, both in the army and navy, are for the most part in easy circumstances, if not rich; these, having no fears for the future welfare of the families they may leave behind them, have, of course, nothing to call their attention to the advantages of such an institution; while the younger portion of them, from natural diffidence, or the habit of subordination, accustomed to act only on the suggestion, advice, or command, of their superiors, in this as in other things wait for their first motion, either by precept or example. Whatever may be the reason that no proposition, for an united action to this purpose, has yet been submitted to the two services, we are disposed to believe, that a rightly organized society would be attended with incalculable benefits; and that a plan, properly devised and matured, would meet with the general, if not universal, concurrence of our officers, of every degree. It is with no presumptuous confidence, that we shall be able to suggest an unobjectionable plan for the formation of such a society, that we have now trespassed upon the attention of our readers, but because we regard the subject as one of infinite importance, and believe that we perform a duty properly belonging to the relation we have assumed, in introducing it to the consideration of our patrons.

In looking over the very entertaining and instructive numbers of the "United Service Journal," of Great Britain, in the hope of finding something that might serve us as a model, or at least furnish some useful hints towards the object in view, we have been disappointed at seeing only a few meagre outlines, scarcely intelligible to those not acquainted with the peculiarities of the British service, and some ill digested calculations wholly inapplicable to the nature of our laws and institutions. These are from correspondents of the Journal referred to, and their suggestions seem rather to have been discouraged than enforced by the remarks of the editor. We acknowledge ourselves

indebted, however, to these papers, for one or two hints, which we shall endeavour to turn to use.

From a calculation, which approximates sufficiently near to the truth for the purposes intended, we find that there are somewhat more than 2,000, commissioned and warrant, officers in the army and navy, whose average monthly pay is about 35 dollars, exclusive of the rations. Were each individual, therefore, to give *one month's* pay, (reserving the rations for his subsistence during that month,) towards the creation of a general subscription fund, the aggregate sum raised would be about 70,000 dollars. The addition to this of an annual subscription of one fourth, or *one week's* pay of each officer, and the interest that would be produced in a compound ratio by the judicious management of the fund, would give, at the end of five years, a capital of (nearly) 175,000 dollars.

We have proposed that the fund should remain untouched for the period of five years, because the largest sum which will have been paid by any officer before the end of that time, would be insufficient for the support of a single individual for a year; and because this mode of accumulating capital is less burdensome upon the officers, than it would be to augment the amount of subscriptions in the first instance.

The average number of yearly deaths among the officers of the army and navy, may be estimated at about one in fifty or sixty. But as the places of those who die are speedily filled by new appointments, and as every young officer will naturally feel desirous to acquire, as early as possible, the right of membership in a society which embraces so many of his comrades and superiors, it is not probable that the amount of annual subscriptions will be much diminished from this cause.

It is not unreasonable to suppose, that when the society shall be once established upon a solid and permanent foundation, it will be aided by donations from wealthy individuals of other classes, and by the general government. But without reference to these probabilities, let us take the result of the calculations given above. At the end of five years, the capital of the Society would be 175,000 dollars. The regular interest of this sum, together with the amount of annual subscriptions, would enable the Society to pay, for ever thereafter, to the families of those entitled to the benefits of the institution, the following rates of annuities:—

	<i>per annum.</i>
To the widows or children of general officers of the army, and post captains of five years and upwards, . . . . .	\$1,000 00
To the widows or children of post captains under five years, colonels and lieutenant colonels, . . . . .	750 00
To the widows or children of all other commissioned officers, . . . . .	500 00
To the widows or children of all warrant officers, . . . . .	300 00

Supposing the average yearly deaths to be as we have stated it, one in fifty, at the commencement of the sixth year there would be to be paid of these annuities—

Of the first class 3, at	\$1,000	. . . . .	\$ 3,000 00
Of the second class 5, at	750	. . . . .	3,750 00
Of the third class 17, at	500	. . . . .	8,500 00
Of the fourth class 18, at	300	. . . . .	5,400 00

Making an aggregate of \$ 20,650, and leaving a balance of interest and annual subscriptions, of \$7,350 to be added to the next year's capital.

Whenever it happens that the subscribing officer shall be killed in action, the annuity to his family might be doubled.

In order to form the Society, it will be absolutely necessary that some one or more of the individuals should take upon themselves the trouble of *beginning*. In every ship, and at every station, naval and military, let the officer who has most leisure, draw up some plan for a general subscription, no matter in what form, and present it to every individual of his brother officers for their signatures, binding them to pay into the hands of a Cashier or Treasurer, whenever the Society shall be organized, the amount of one month's pay exclusive of rations, and annually thereafter one fourth of a month's pay. In the course of a short time, and with very little trouble, all who are disposed to subscribe will have had the opportunity afforded them of doing so, and the subscribers may proceed to the selection of a committee, who should be empowered to draw up a few plain and simple articles of association, and in the name of the whole to petition Congress for an act of incorporation.

The affairs of the Society should be conducted by a Board of Directors, composed of the Secretaries of War and the Navy, *ex officio*, and twenty-three individuals to be chosen annually by the subscribers from their own number. In this Board should be vested the power of appointing their own presiding officer, a Secretary, Cashier, and Bookkeeper; and as neither of these officers ought to be entitled to vote on any question touching the investment, or other disposition, of the funds, the selection of them need not be confined to the Society, but may be made, perhaps with greater advantage, from the community at large.

The votes of a majority of the whole number of Directors, including the Secretaries of War and the Navy, should be necessary to determine all questions relating to the investment of the capital; but where the two Secretaries do not concur on any question, then two thirds of the whole number of Directors should be required to carry the proposition against the dissentient Secretary.

The articles of association, laws, or constitution of the So-

ciety, should, as far as possible prescribe, all that relates to annuities—their commencement, amount, and duration. That is to say, no annuity ought to accrue to the widow or children of a deceased officer who shall not have been at least five years a subscriber to the fund. The amount of the annuity ought in no instance to exceed a given scale. It ought to continue during the life of the widow: if there are children, and the widow should take another husband, then the annuity should be paid to trustees, appointed by the directors, for the exclusive benefit of such children. Annuities to children, where there is no widow, or where the widow marries again, should be continued, to females until they reach the age of eighteen, unless previously married, in which case they should then cease, and to males, until they reach the age of sixteen years.

But there are many points touching the disposal of annuities, which must of necessity be left to the prudence, discretion, and judgment of the directors. For example, where it is known to the board, that a deceased subscriber has left an unencumbered estate, fully adequate to the support of his surviving family, it would be a manifest waste of the funds to grant the annuity. Or where there is a certain, known income, but less than the apportionment on the scale of annuities, the annuity granted should be of such amount only as to make up the deficiency. Where an unmarried subscriber dies, leaving a widowed mother, or brothers and sisters under the ages specified, the annuity should be granted in the same manner as in the case of widow or children.

Cases may occur, where the immediate advance of a small sum to the widow or children, or others entitled to be placed on the annuity list, may be necessary to their present comfort. This the directors should have power to determine, at their discretion, and the sum so advanced should be considered as a gratuity, not to be charged against the regular payments, as they become due, of the annuity; but no such gratuity should ever exceed the amount of half a year's annuity, in the class to which the annuitants may belong.

If any officer, after becoming a member of the Society, should refuse or neglect to pay his annual contribution, he should forfeit all right to its benefits; but members, who may be detained on distant service for more than a year, may be permitted at any subsequent time to recover their rights, by the payment of the whole amount of subscriptions due. In like manner, if a member, not in arrear at the time of his departure on distant service, should die while absent, leaving one or more years' subscription due, it ought not to deprive his surviving family of their right to an annuity; but in this case, the amount of subscription due, should be deducted from the first payment of the annuity.



Officers, who leave the service, may continue to be members of the Society, so long as they continue to pay the same amount of annual subscription which they paid while in the service.

These suggestions, we trust, will be at least sufficient to invite the attention of our officers to a subject of so much importance to the future welfare of their families; and whether our hints may be regarded as worthy to form the groundwork of the association proposed or not, if they should lead to the adoption of any plan, having the same object in view, we shall feel that these few pages have not been written in vain.

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

### PRIVATE ARMED SHIP MARQUIS LAFAYETTE.

A narrative of the escape and cruises of the private armed ship Marquis Lafayette, written by John Cowper, Esq. of Norfolk, Va. at the request of one of the senior officers of our Navy, who was intimately acquainted with Capt. Meredith and several of the other officers. Amongst them, the late Capt. Christopher Thompkins, Col. George Wray, and Mr. Ross Mitchell, the pilot, all of whom were from Hampton, Virginia.

This gallant ship was frigate built, and sailed fast. The circumstances narrated by Mr. Cowper, who was a volunteer on board of her, are still familiar to those who have any distinct recollection of the transactions of those days, and are exemplary proofs of what may be accomplished by perseverance, judgment, and bravery.

*Norfolk, April 6th, 1833.*

DEAR SIR:

I have often promised you that I would put on paper the circumstances attending the remarkable escape of the private armed ship Marquis Lafayette, from Nansemond river, through Hampton Roads, during the revolutionary war. This promise I shall now redeem, as far as some memoranda, which, by accident, I recently found, and memory will permit. The circumstances are yet very strongly impressed on my mind, having occurred at a period of my life, when very strong impressions are made; besides which, I was deeply interested in many ways, in the result of an attempt deemed so very difficult, if not impossible, at the time it was undertaken.

The ship Marquis Lafayette was owned by my father and his two brothers, trading as merchants, under the firm of Wills Cowper & Co., and residing near Suffolk, that town having been destroyed by the enemy in the year 1779. This ship was commanded by Captain Joseph Meredith, and was calculated

to carry 26 guns, including 6 quarter deck guns; but at the time alluded to, mounted only 12 guns, six pounders, and was manned with only 40 persons of all descriptions.

There was something so extraordinary in the fortunes of this ship, that although not connected with her escape, may not be deemed to be without interest. She was built within half a mile of Suffolk, and every preparation for launching her was made, to be carried into execution the next day, when an express arrived, stating the arrival in Hampton Roads of a British fleet. This was about the middle or latter part of October, 1780. It proved to be a fleet of ships of war and transports, having on board an army under the command of Major General Leslie. The main army landed without a moment's delay, and took possession of Portsmouth, while two detachments were sent up Nansemond river, one landing on the south side of the river, and the other on the north side, intending to unite (as they afterwards did) at Suffolk. The owners of this ship, apprized of the approach of the enemy, hastened their preparations for launching, to prevent her being burned on the stocks. They completed their operations of launching, and had her scuttled and sunk in about eighteen feet water, only about half an hour before the detachment that landed on the south side of Nansemond river arrived at Suffolk. Whether from the haste in sinking it was imperfectly done, is not known; but in a very few hours she was raised, and subsequently taken down to Portsmouth. Fortunately her sails and rigging had been removed to about seven miles from Suffolk. On the night of the same day on which she was removed, the detachment that landed on the north side, came to the place where the sails, rigging, &c. were stored, and remained nearly half a day, but did not open the house where they were stored.

On the arrival of the ship at Portsmouth, preparations were made to fit her out and send her to New York; but at this moment, General Leslie received orders to evacuate Virginia without delay, which he did; and the ship was again sunk at Gosport. The owners lost no time in raising her, and taking her up Nansemond river. They had nearly prepared for sea, when about the latter end of December, or early in January, Arnold arrived in Virginia, and was subsequently followed by General Philips, and the State permanently invaded; in addition to which, Lord Cornwallis was expected in Virginia.

It was at this juncture that Captain Meredith took command, and prepared for the enterprise in which he afterwards succeeded. Those who know what situation the country was in at that time, will appreciate the difficulties which presented themselves to such an undertaking. The cavalry and infantry of the enemy were daily, and the artillery occasionally, on the shores of the Nansemond, as high up as the head waters. It

was most dangerous to remain a moment in the narrow waters, and accordingly the ship was moved near the mouth of the river, where it is wide ; but this movement brought her in full view of the enemy's ships. The entrance of Nansemond river is extremely difficult, and it was believed that the enemy had not a pilot, who could bring a ship of sufficient force to attack this ship into that river. They did not attempt it, but sent some boats in the night, which were discovered, and retreated without making the attempt.

In this situation the ship remained a long time, until about the 1st of May, 1781. This delay arose from the difficulty to procure seamen to navigate her, should we succeed in putting her to sea. At length, however, they were procured, and about this time, the movements of the enemy indicated that the delay of one night might render all further attempts abortive. To my best recollection, it was on the second or third of May that it was decided that on that night the attempt should be made, although the moon was advanced in her second quarter. In the morning Captain Meredith, with one of the owners, accompanied by a skilful Hampton pilot, named Ross Mitchell, went down in the ship's barge to reconnoitre the position of the enemy's ships. They were distributed nearly as follows: One ship of the line, a frigate, and a sloop of war lay under Newport Noose ; two frigates and two sloops lay off Hampton bar, about half a mile from each other ; three vessels of war were at the entrance of Elizabeth river, near Seawell's point ; and several vessels of war, of what description or number I do not now remember, were near Old Point Comfort. The transports and merchant vessels, about eighty to one hundred, were distributed in different parts of the road, and from whom nothing was to be apprehended, unless those higher up should give notice of our approach ; which was also to be apprehended from the ships under Newport Noose. It ought to have been stated, that the orders were issued by Captain Meredith in the morning, before he went down to the Roads. All spirits were forbidden to be used on that day. After entering Hampton Roads, the duty of the ship was to be carried on in a tone so low as not to be heard out of the ship. The guns to be loaded, but not to be fired without special order, even if we were fired into. Captain Meredith stated to his officers, that by not returning the fire of the enemy, we might pass for one of their own ships, and it might cease ; but if we fired, our character could not be mistaken. He further stated, that upon entering the Roads, almost a dead silence must be observed. His plan was to get among the transports, as near to them as possible, and to keep one or more of them between him and the ships of war.

All things being ready at dark, we got under way, with the ebb tide, and a moderate breeze at about w.n.w. and proceed-

ed down. Having cleared the river the road pilot took charge, and a boat was ready to take off the river pilot, when the wind became light, and in a short time it was calm. This was an awful moment—to return was impossible, on account of the tide—nothing remained but to anchor. Captain Meredith was pacing the quarter deck, and with much anxiety looking to the north west, when an officer came and said that all was ready to let go, and that the pilot notified that it must be done immediately, as the ship could not be commanded. Orders were given to let go the anchor, when Captain Meredith called out “stop!” I was near to him and heard him exclaim, “I see the cloud from whence we shall have a wind.” At this moment the higher sails began to swell, the top-sails bent, and immediately spread themselves to the breeze. Those who know how a north west wind comes on, will know what was the effect.

We now entered fully into the roads. The first ships we passed were those under Newport Noose; we saw them very distinctly when the clouds did not obscure the moon. They probably did not see us, as they gave no signal to the ships below. We now approached the frigate that was highest up, and passed her at the distance of a quarter of a mile. We soon got among the transports, passing them most rapidly, and often so near as to hear the conversation on board. We were never hailed by one. It may be well imagined that with a strong ebb tide—wind sufficient—a fast sailing ship—a press of sail—and a smooth water—there was little time for observation; and I am certain that, by the time a gun could have been brought to bear, we should have been out of sight. The great danger was from notice being given by the ships above to those below.

At length we passed the ships near Old Point Comfort, and began to feel easy, when we approached a very large ship at anchor, near Willoughby's Point. She hailed us, but no answer was given; and what she was we never knew—probably some ship that had come in that afternoon, and anchored upon the making of the ebb tide.

A very short time elapsed before we cleared Cape Henry, and after a sound sleep I found myself on blue water; and I was as much rejoiced as I had ever been, on my return to port after a long voyage. Escaped from an enemy that was gathering round us every day, and by whose grasp we must have been shortly seized, the ocean was hailed as our deliverer.

These are the material facts of an escape that was thought miraculous at the time, but to me it appears to have been less so than I could have supposed. The rapidity of the ship's movement when under way was such, that it was impossible to have stopped her, unless it was known that she was on the way down; and it is surprising that the enemy's ships did not



keep a better look out. My father, who was a prisoner in Norfolk at the time, told me that the enemy had not supposed the attempt would be made on a moonlight night—nor would it have been made but from pressing necessity. The boldness of the enterprize made the enemy less vigilant.

This narrative may shew to those in difficulty, that success is one half secured, when we are determined on a bold enterprize. Placed in the circumstances in which Captain Meredith and the owners were, from the situation of the country, many persons would have saved the materials and equipments, and abandoned the hull.

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As the history of this ship, to her final end, has excited an interest with you, although not important, I will resume.

After getting to sea, Captain Meredith decided to get into the first port, and accordingly he made for the Delaware, and early in the morning made land a little to the south of Cape Henlopen. Upon coming up with that Cape, we saw a large British frigate (as supposed) at anchor, who was soon under way, in chase of us. By four o'clock, P. M. she gave up the chase, and we pursued our way for Rhode Island, where we arrived without accident.

At Rhode Island the ship was completely armed and fitted with 18 guns—6 pounders—on the battery, and 6 fours on the quarter deck, and 140 men, with which she proceeded on a cruise off the port of Charlestown, (as then called) S. C. which was occupied by the British. Within four miles of the bar, we captured a British brig of 400 tons, with a cargo of dry goods, worth, at that time, in the United States 350,000 dollars; and on the same day, captured two other vessels of no great value, burned one, and with the brig and the other, proceeded for Rhode Island.

Our movements had not passed without notice by the enemy. We boarded a Flag the next morning, from whom we learned, that two frigates and two sloops of war passed the bar, in the afternoon of the same day we disappeared. On the second morning, some time before day, saw a large ship under the lee; Captain Meredith hailed the prizes, and ordered them to haul to the eastward, and proceed according to their instructions in case of separation.

For the safety of his own ship Captain M. had no fear, from her superior sailing; but feared for his rich prize, a very dull sailer. He practised a manœuvre which, I think, succeeded in preventing the enemy from knowing our size; for, had we presented the broadside, it would have shewn him the distance between the masts; but we bore down upon him. There is reason to believe that we saw this vessel before we were seen, as it was nearly three quarters of an hour after we parted with our

prizes, before any movement was discovered by the enemy. Day was now breaking. The vessel was a large frigate, and was preparing for action. In the mean time, every thing on board our ship was prepared to haul on a wind for running. As the morning advanced, we could no longer practice the imposition, and hauled our wind. The chase then commenced; our prizes were three or four miles to the eastward; the enemy either did not notice them, or did not care for them. Our enemy proved to be a better sailer than we expected; for, after getting into our wake—which Captain M. permitted, as our ship to do her best required the wind a little free—she kept even with us, or pretty nearly so, which induced us to go more large; but at that moment we made another ship to leeward, which it would be difficult to pass, as we were then standing. The ship astern kept way with us, and it was thought would have come up with us, if we hauled upon a wind to avoid the ship to leeward. Captain M. was always prompt in his decision, and determined to pass the ship to leeward, even if exposed to a broadside or two. This ship proved a very inferior sailer to her consort, and though she was almost in our path, she only gave us one fire from her broadside, and at the same time her consort opened upon us astern. Their fire did us little damage, and we were soon relieved from the ship last seen, who bore away, leaving us to her consort, who kept up the chase until four o'clock P. M. when, for the first time, we began to feel confident of our superior sailing. At sun down she gave up the chase. Next morning, we boarded another cartel, and from the prisoners we learned, that the ships that had chased us were the *Blonde* and the *Carysfort*; the former a very fast ship.

After returning to Rhode Island, Captain Meredith proceeded on another cruise, which was cut very short by the following circumstances. Captain M. determined to look into the Chesapeake, and then proceed to Charleston and Savannah. On the 5th of September, 1781, being off Hogg Island, stood in to the south, and about meridian saw a fleet ahead, and to leeward; upon standing on, perceived it was a fleet of British ships of war, formed into a line of battle. Presently we saw a French fleet beating out of the Capes of Virginia. About 3 or 4 o'clock an action commenced. These were the fleets of *De Grasse* and *Graves*. About sun down, the French bore away for the Capes. It was this naval action, and the arrival of the Rhode Island squadron, which we also saw going in, that put an end to the hopes of Lord Cornwallis at York. The French, by the junction of *D' Barras*, from Rhode Island, with *De Grasse*, gave them a superiority which the British, in those seas, dared not face. All this time the British were between us and our friends.

About dark we hauled off to the eastward, wind light, and

so continued until daylight; when we saw two frigates, about two miles to leeward and abreast of us. Captain Meredith immediately tacked ship to the westward. It may be proper here to state, that after our return to Rhode Island, under the impression that our ship required more sail, a change took place in sparring her. The foremast was sprung at the head, in the early part of last cruise in chase; it was well fished, and answered very well; but it was taken out, the mainmast put in for a foremast, and a new mainmast procured. It is astonishing how these changes affected the sailing of the ship; and the very day we made the fleets, Captain M. had decided to return to Rhode Island, and take his old Virginia mast again. It is said that sharp vessels are easily put out of trim; and therefore, when they are found to sail *well*, beating every thing they meet, it is not wise to *try* to make them sail better.

Captain Meredith was afraid of a long chase, and tacked to the westward, being about twelve leagues from the land. The chase commenced, and we were in great danger, and must have been taken, if the headmost frigate had not so very frequently rounded to, in order to give her broadside. This she was induced to do by our nearing the land. Captain M. now consulted his pilot, Ross Mitchell of Hampton, upon the soundings, and to know if he could anchor him, so as to be out of close gunshot of the frigate. He said he could. The necessary preparations were made, and the chase continued, until we got in three fathoms water, and an order was issued to let go the anchor, when the frigates hauled off, and made for the fleet. It was understood that they were the Iris and Richmond. We returned to Rhode Island, where Captain M. and the writer left her.

The old Virginia foremast was again taken in, and the mainmast replaced, when the ship sailed as at first; which should be a caution to innovators.

She made another successful cruise under Captain Munroe, and had a severe engagement with a Liverpool Letter of Marque, of 16 nine pounders and 87 men, which she captured. Captain Munroe received a wound which obliged him to leave the ship, and from which he never recovered, though he lived several years after.

The Marquis returned to Rhode Island, and was ordered to Virginia (to take a cargo of tobacco, for France,) to be coppered, which in those days could not be well done here. She was now drawing to a premature death. Under an indiscreet commander, a little to the southward of Cape Henry, she was chased by a frigate, from whom she was getting away fast, when another frigate was discovered, shaping her course to cut the Marquis off from Cape Henry. The Virginia officers that remained, assured the commander that they could round the

Cape, without the danger of more than one or two broadsides at most, and perhaps without one. He was not a Meredith, but ordered the helm to be put up, and run this gallant, enterprising little ship ashore; and thus, after so many hair-breadth escapes from danger, she was lost, when the danger existed only in apprehension.

I have written this in great haste, and with other business before me, requiring immediate attention.

Very respectfully,

Dear Sir, Yours,

J. C.

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

ON POPULAR PREJUDICES AGAINST  
MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS.

In the progress of Society and Government, the pursuits of men have multiplied, and successive discoveries in the arts, and in moral and physical science, have given them new directions, and called forth new energies. The great mass, constituting a people or nation, has been divided and subdivided into classes, or small communities, each part deriving new power from the separation, by the perfection of the objects of its own branch of labor, and the consequent additional wealth flowing from it. Civilization has called for new institutions, which formerly would have been deemed selfish and unimportant; institutions, which, although not seen as the immediate agents to ensure a required result, are nevertheless necessary, like the great wheels, which check and regulate the movements of the other parts of the machinery. Whilst civilization has tended to perfect the social ties, which bind together individuals and small bodies of men, it has also imposed some inconveniences, by the burthen of expense and restrictions of natural freedom, necessary for its progress; inconveniences, however, which, when surveyed with a philosophic temper, are absolute benefits in comparison with the previous state of mutual depredation and uncontrollable confusion. Thus all governments have endeavored to vest themselves with power, according to the character of their people, and the knowledge of the age; power which might be used as a defence against foreign foes, or as the means of ensuring domestic tranquillity; but the natural egotism of man's disposition makes him jealous of the pow-



er of individuals and of governments, to which he is subject ; and every law which confirms the one or creates the other, is viewed with an intent and suspicious scrutiny. Among the most prominent and necessary means of security looked to by all governments, is the organization of military force, which has called forth more denunciation, engendered more suspicion, and been the object of more reproach and envious abuse, than any other establishment whatever ; serving at all times as a theme for the cant eloquence of sycophantic demagogues, or the monotonous querulousness of leaden-brained stupidity. Protection and obligation are correlative terms, and the first cannot be ensured, without the observance of the second. Power is necessary for the one, and the consequence of the other, and all state power is fleeting and inefficient, without a character which depends upon organization. Be it physical power, which displays itself in the order and gorgeousness of military array ; or be it moral power, which is acknowledged in the obedience rendered to judicial mandates, the principle which operates upon the mind is the same ; authority combined with order, carries with it the idea of right. Since the era of modern history, during which standing armies were established, prejudices have been rife against them ; while their utility is acknowledged, they are continually decried, and danger from them constantly foreseen. The reasons at first for these prejudices were, no doubt, sufficient. The tyranny of feudal bondage had not passed away ; and soldiers were nothing more, for a great length of time, than the retainers of a prince, or the minions of a successful general. While, on the one hand, they secured the territories of their country, and were ever in a state of preparation at less expense of money and sacrifice of labor, so they were, on the other, a ready and active means of oppression.—But the social and political state of the world is now changed ; yet the consequences of the system of other days is clung to, although the causes themselves have long since ceased to exist. It is thus that prejudices against military establishments are nourished by the recollection of the character of past times, which no reason or reflection can acknowledge as similar to that of the present.

It has been said, that the return of Napoleon from Elba afforded proof of the danger and uncertainty of standing armies ; but the causes operating upon the minds of the military at that epoch must be considered. Louis XVIII. had violated the pledges under which the Bourbon dynasty was restored. The public mind was agitated by the question of the public domains, in which the interest of millions was mingled, and whereby irremediable injustice would have been committed. The emigrants started points of rank and precedence, which were supported, though not openly, by the monarch ; then it was that the re-

turn of Napoleon gave a new impulse to the nation ; and is it to be thought strange that, under such circumstances, the citizens, among whom were the army, should oppose themselves to the dictum of an individual, though that individual happened to be a king ? The army in particular were swayed by the recollection of an hundred battles and victories, of toils and dangers, of pain and sacrifices, in behalf of France, and the millions united with them, were they to be subdued by the absurd dogma of divine right ? as if a nation of enlightened and cultivated men could be bequeathed as the inheritance of a single person, without regarding it as a political privilege subject to the will of the people themselves ? Thus, instead of being an effort to trample upon the laws, it was a manifestation of honorable pride, and love of liberty ; a glorious struggle to break forever the chains and manacles of feudal bondage. After a bloody and disastrous campaign, they were driven back upon their capital by the united armies of Europe, that capital taken, and its population subjected to military exaction. Misfortunes had not only weakened their forces, but enfeebled the loyalty and truth of some of their commanders ; a striking and humiliating proof of which was given in the defection of Marshal Marmont, who estimating his *bâton* as more valuable than his honor, delivered his division prisoners of war, under the alleged provisions of a convention. The national feeling of chivalrous pride was aroused ; national honor, so sedulously cultivated by the military community, and by them given to the people at large, is reflected back with accumulated power and brilliancy, animated every bosom ; and France stood like a suppliant, appealing to her own children against the degradation of coercion by foreign power, the dismemberment of her empire, and the dissipation of her wealth ; or, if she could not triumph, to be permitted at least, like the fated Roman, to die with decency even at the feet of her relentless foes. It has also been customary to cite, in support of this popular prejudice, the history of the Prætorian Bands, and that of the Janisaries of the Turkish Empire. It should have been recollected, that the first had none of the attributes of a standing army except the arms they bore ; they were but an armed force, who rose, it is true, superior to the other parts of a broken empire, and acted as the personal adherents of an Emperor, but acknowledged no government. They sold the throne and reclaimed it as they pleased, and stood in the same relation to their head, as a banditti do to their chief. For the other, there is no shadow of analogy. The condition of the Janisaries to the head of the Turkish Empire, was that of master and slave ; and if the latter sometimes exacted conditions, it showed only as the manifestation of an inherent desire for a reasonable degree of liberty ; proving, that if human nature has a uniform bent towards

freedom, human laws are often too strong to permit the attainment of the object. Such is the nature of the facts to which reference is made, to support the prejudices of which we speak. History, however, has other events recorded, which have a tendency of another character, and are quite as numerous as those of the first class.

The sequel of the revolution caused by the return of Napoleon in 1814, was the revolution of 1830, which makes manifest how far the people themselves, unsupported by the military part of the population, can effect the object of their wishes. If the army in 1814 took a leading part, it was because the empire was surrounded and threatened by hostile armies, and was of itself the principal bulwark against the Bourbon family. But how differently were they situated, and how different was their part, in the drama of 1830. At peace with every power of Europe, fearing no aggression of territory by a foe, the army was but a passive body, and but a small part; soldiers from another country offered resistance, not so much to support the government, as to defend the persons of the royal family. In recurring to this event, we seize with pleasure the opportunity to pay a slight tribute of respect to the memory of the Swiss Guards. Notions of military honor, exalted as they may sometimes appear, when contrasted with our judgment of the necessity of doubtful enterprizes or of desperate resistance, are nevertheless founded upon sentiments which shed a lustre upon human nature. They occupy the same place in the opinions of their adherents, as common-place honesty and integrity do in the minds of those pursuing the more quiet road of civil life; and are alike, in the consequences of conduct, the fountain of truth and support of virtue. It is from the force of such considerations, that we indulge a sympathy for the fate of those brave men; and however mistaken they may have been in their political attachments, yet the nature of their engagements to the royal family was such, that from their sense of truth and duty, they must ever be considered as victims of popular fury, and a noble sacrifice to fidelity and honor.

At this period, the military had imbibed the sentiments and opinions of the people; and it is a striking, nay, a wonderful proof, given too by an army of France, whose government had formerly depended upon their loyalty for support, by an army enjoying the patronage and esteem of the king, how far public opinion can weaken or destroy the habits of military obedience. The opposite courses which the army took in 1814 and 1830, although based upon the same principles, and operated upon by like or similar causes, have occasioned many ungenerous and unfounded reflections upon the military character in general; but they are easily answered, and the conduct of the army on both occasions, is not only justified, but made meritorious,

when there are applied to it the principles of patriotism and duty. In the first case, the thousand presses, and town-meetings in Great Britain, fulminated against these supporters of their country, the most contemptuous and threatening denunciations; while in the second, the same organs of public sentiment lavished indiscriminate praise upon the same description of persons, for the same species of conduct! But it may be asked, why this wide discrepancy in the opinion of the public? We answer, it proceeded from, and was caused by, the selfish policy of the English government, goaded on by the cupidity of her monopolists and manufacturers. The spirit of patriotism, with which the French nation was animated, found no sympathy in a generous devotion to the principles of universal freedom; the Genius of Trade was the object of English worship; and from its oracles they heard, that in the first case, success would bring with it the re-adoption and re-enforcement of the Continental system; but in the latter, that English commerce would, by the re-establishment of the Bourbon throne, find freer channels and wider seas. In drawing inferences from the part which individual communities have played in times of commotion, there is none more striking than this, that whatever the character or pursuit of such community may be, a selfish and exclusive policy has always tended to the detriment of the great body of society at large. If circumstances have enabled trading communities to acquire monopolies, manufacturers to command protection, or even agriculturists to receive bounties, the result has always been the same, adverse to the general interest, and dangerous to public tranquillity; and so far as the principle of conduct is concerned, equally the same with that of the military who should claim to exercise the administration of the government by reason of their superior power to enforce it.

As in the progress of government the military interests are less frequently presented for consideration than those of other bodies of the state-politic, for whose protection and encouragement the government was more immediately constituted, it follows as a consequence, that whenever the military have exerted any decided influence, either in vindication of the laws, or in efforts to trample upon them, they occupy a more prominent situation, and are longer remembered in connection with such events. Party interest, and party spirit, never fail upon such occasions, to ring the changes upon military usurpation, whether the cause of excitement be true or false; and thus the conflict of passion begets terms and phrases which, by the mere force of reiteration, finally settle down into something resembling philosophical maxims, or political truths. In the observations which we now offer, it must be understood, that they are intended to apply to armies of the present time, or



within the last century. In declaiming against the military as being dangerous to free governments, it is assuming a position which causes them to be viewed as revolutionary, a declaration which is at once opposed to history and reason. Organization, order, discipline, or habits of obedience, and all these the consequences of an enactment under the government which they serve, are directly opposed to such views. Their very occupations give them a tendency directly the reverse; their efficiency, comfort and reputation, depend upon quiet subordination. It is the rabble of cities and large towns, whose crimes and vices, and not their poverty, render them revolutionary; the law is their natural enemy, and as they are too low to have any influence in the enactment of, so they are too volatile to be affected by the abolition of any law; their wants, therefore, place them in opposition to all law. Licentiousness and disorder must always have their beginning with the lowest classes of society; habits of military discipline are too strong to be overcome by the first, or by a few efforts. It would be a difficult task to prove by well authenticated history, that revolution has been the work of military interests exclusively. In the great parties which agitate countries under such circumstances, political and selfish motives have commanded the power of the military, or levied new forces in opposition to those already existing. Revolution, rebellion, sedition, and insurrection, bring standing armies in their train of consequences, but are never the means of banishing from a country a system of military organization. When the passions of men are roused and kept in a state of excitement by conflicting interests and opposing parties, the description of force which naturally presents itself to the mind, to be used for the subjugation of a rival, is military force; all other brought into conflict, produces nothing but the cruelties and confusion of a riot, without any permanent benefit to the victorious party. A force without organization, can possess no character or efficiency, nor excite in the minds of those against whom it is directed, either fear or respect. Thus do the parties themselves, the contending civil parties of a state, give rise to the means of offence, which in more peaceable times, both are ready to condemn; when in all likelihood, if such means of acting had previously existed, popular opinion would have directed it to the right side, and have prevented all the horrors of anarchy and civil war. Under a well organized and just government, the military body is always a check upon a certain class of people, and particular individuals, who, existing in every country, are ever ready to foment violence and alarm. It supports public opinion, and is in turn supported by it, and the incentives to lawless acts, the aggression of either political or personal rights, are certainly weakened, when such a body is always ready to oppose the

wishes of those who would contemplate, by any means, the overthrow of the laws. Let then the reason of men make the proper distinction between the agitators and the conservators of the public peace. Let them look to the causes of evil, rather than cast obloquy upon the means which are brought forward to oppose them, before judgment be pronounced upon the virtue and patriotism of a body of citizens, which exists by the law, because it is necessary to the law. It requires years of commotion, of confusion, of foreign war, or domestic violence, before an army can assume a positive and decisive influence upon the fate of a country. The entire body politic must be broken by faction, and perplexed by intrigue, ere public virtue can be so weakened, public morals so debased, as to lead a nation to forget the blessings of freedom, or to be inattentive to the call of duty. Thus it is seen that popular disorders, flowing from other sources than the mere dependence upon military power, usurp the place of law, and if in the common confusion the military be mingled, it is but a dictate of nature for self-preservation which prompts them to use the means which their habits and profession have put into their hands. A soldiery is often termed licentious and discontented, because they demand the protection due to them as citizens, claiming such privileges only as every other class enjoys. Was not the exclamation, "I am a Roman citizen," in former ages, a protection and safeguard to all who appealed to it, whether their previous lives had been passed in civil, or in military pursuits? And why shall not a similar appeal at the present day cover with the panoply of the law all who make it? Justice knows no distinction of classes, or of conditions; innate in the bosom of every man, her principles at once acknowledge or reject the conclusions of his judgement. As public opinion is the basis upon which all society must rest, so is that but another name to express the universal sense of justice; when that is violated, the aggressor must submit to the retributions of the law; or by resisting, create further evils. Turn over the pages of history, showing the progress and changes of society since the formation of modern governments, and see what portion, or class of society, have taken the first step, or struck the first blow, in every revolution. It certainly will be found to be not the army. They are too far removed from the discussion of principles of government, of the interpretation of laws, of constitutional rights, of enactments having a view to domestic regulation or foreign relations, or any other and similar questions whereby the passions are agitated and the public mind disturbed, ever to be the projectors of speculative theories, or of practical change. The manner in which military men are regarded by the public, in reference to their profession alone, illustrates very forcibly the declaration of the poet, that "the evil

which men do lives after them, the good is oft interred with their bones." There is certainly no class of society which has made greater sacrifices to public sentiment, and for the public good, than that of which we speak; yet emphatically, the evil, which, under peculiar circumstances, has been supposed to arise from the interference of military bodies, has been garnered up in the memory, whilst the advantages and benefits which they have bestowed and secured, are literally forgotten! In making reference to past times for the support of these prejudices, the imagination has given all its colors, to make the picture striking and attractive. We are told of Eastern despotism supported by military power, of the violence and revenge of the predominant parties of armed men in civil wars, of the instability of a system of rule founded upon the passions; and then there is the attempt to make an application of all these monstrosities as the consequences of standing armies at the present day. How vain and futile would be such a course of reasoning, were reason itself allowed to exercise its just influence, that would teach us that despotic governments, although they may be for a time supported by armies, are not always created by them; that they follow as a matter of course, in the progress of a people from barbarism to refinement; and the first attempt at regular government must necessarily be supported by some active power. The child at first feels with fear the authority of the schoolmaster, but time wears off the uneasy disposition called forth by this new scene, and he acknowledges afterwards the propriety and necessity of the restrictions which bound him once so painfully. So is it with communities and nations; there must be time sufficient to teach and to enlighten them, ere the body itself can assume a safe and independent course; for, according to the state of knowledge, are the political institutions of the age free or arbitrary. As we have before remarked that our observations are intended to apply to free governments of the present age, we also state our belief of the perfect impossibility of any danger to follow from the maintenance of standing armies, under the government of the United States. This, not only because the mass of population must always be, under any circumstances, enormously greater than the military, but that the military are directed by the very sentiments of duty and patriotism, which sway that mass itself. From the character of the American people, and the education which every military officer receives, the army will always be peculiarly fitted to adopt and act according to the avowed expression of the nation's wishes, to be predisposed to defer to public opinion, which in every country must, to a certain degree, be potential and commanding. The influence and power of public opinion is best known when, in those things which go beyond positive law, and tangible objects of

consideration, it is enabled to restrain the violence of passion, to prevent the violation of sentiment, and the omission of those decencies of social life, which constitute the supports and charms of society. Whilst one pervading sentiment operates to enforce the enactments of human authority, it restrains those more minute actions of life, which no system of legislation can reach. If it have a form and combination of appearances, which we may deem but a fiction of the times, its foundation is nevertheless laid in positive strength. Like the fanciful and delicate ornaments of a vast temple, which lead the sight to scan their proportions, and measure from their distant elevation, the strength by the apparent slightness of the structure, we trace the connection of one with the other, until we reach the common basis of the whole in the earth itself. So public opinion, although considered but a mere abstraction, or at best an evanescent power, is, in reference to its action upon individuals, or foreign nations, found to be sanctioned by, and to rely for the enforcement of its decrees upon, physical strength. As this article is assuming a length greater than we had anticipated, we shall conclude with a few historical references, and some general observations upon the character and origin of the American army. History offers frequent illustrations of the position which we have assumed in this paper, that the popular prejudices against standing armies, as they now are constituted under free governments, are unfounded and visionary. The example of the French army, during the revolution of 1791, may be quoted; this period gave an instance how an army imbibes the prevailing sentiments of a nation, in opposition to the sovereign and government it was expected to serve, when such sovereign and government are found to be opposed to the freedom of the people. Another similar one may be adverted to, which had place at the English Restoration in 1659, when General Monk, at the head of the army, marched upon London, and drove out the Rump Parliament, dispossessing them of usurped authority and iniquitous power, and reinstating the rightful and legitimate monarch in the possession of his rights. We say rightful and legitimate monarch, not from the acknowledgment of hereditary right having a divine origin, but simply because it was the will of the people of England, that King Charles should reign. In leaving the numerous similar examples which are recorded in the histories of other countries, we will turn to one written in that of our own; one exhibiting the most exalted virtue and devoted patriotism. We refer to that period when the ARMY OF THE REVOLUTION was disbanded in 1783. After a desperate and protracted struggle, during which every hardship was braved, the severities of climate, the pains of hunger, as well as the arms of the foe; embarked in a cause, which for a long time, was by many deemed hopeless,



and serving a government without the means to minister to their wants, they nevertheless finally emerged from the contest victorious and free. It was now that peace being re-established, these men, relying upon the faith of the government to pay their arrears at a future day, quietly laid down their arms, and dispersed to seek the repose of the domestic fire-side ; and to enter upon new scenes in civil employment. But how has this pledge then given by the nation been redeemed ? Truth obliges us to answer, and it is with pain and humiliation, that the greater number of that band of patriot veterans have been left to go down to the grave in poverty, unrequited and forgotten ! When we read the record of this last act of that army, we are moved to exclaim, " what a commentary upon the declarations and principles of the war ! " The history of that period must ever be acknowledged as forming a bright page in the annals of our country, proving also, that the love of country and the will to make great sacrifices are not incompatible with the profession of arms ; and that mercenary motives and licentious habits are neither the basis nor consequences of the military character. ✓ The army of the United States had its origin in peculiar circumstances. It was not of gradual growth, from the petty invasions of warlike chiefs, or nurtured by the successful encroachments upon individual rights and neighboring territory, but came forth at once at the voice of the nation, like Pallas in panoply complete. It owed its origin to the necessity of self defence, and its progress has been guided, and its sentiments fixed by public opinion. ✓ It must ever thus be governed. The officers who direct its various parts, are too strongly connected by social and political ties, to lose sight of the general interest. Its numbers can never render it dangerous, and its power and influence, its hopes and its desires, must always be subservient to, or be absorbed in, the party projects, or ruling passion of the day. The constitution of the army of the United States is unlike that of any other nation. The country is withdrawn from those scenes and changes of political power which beget strife and engender the love of military fame. The pursuits of the citizens are eminently peaceful and adverse to the profession of arms ; hence the difficulty which will always be encountered in the levying and organizing of large masses, except in times of public danger. These remarks do not only apply to the past and present state of the country, but have also a prospective view, and for many years will the annals of the country confirm a like opinion.

✓ The United States, from peculiar geographical situation, have undoubtedly less need of military establishments than any other government now existing. The nature of the institutions of the country, and the general intelligence of the people, have lent their aid to render less essential the maintenance

of such bodies ; yet there are circumstances or causes emanating from political relation with foreign powers, as well as the general propriety of military preparation, which demand attention to this division of national strength, and will ever exist to make necessary the organization of such forces. The widely extended commerce of the United States is alike the source of wealth, and the most probable cause of war ; claims of maritime supremacy, or of peculiar maritime rights on the part of other powers will ever be a ready means to open the temple of Janus. The violation of neutral rights, the confiscation or detention of property, the consequences of such claims, will ever, by the citizen, be just and awakening causes of appeal to the nation to which he owes allegiance ; and from the experience of the last thirty-five years, it cannot be expected that international law will be so clearly expounded, or so religiously observed, as to protect the weak from aggression, or deter the strong from violence. In founding upon such conduct and causes a belief of the probable return of war, it is but natural to look around us to discover what country is most likely to stand forth as an enemy, and it must be acknowledged that of all others England is the most likely to assume that position. Rivals in commercial enterprize, and soon so to be in the arts of domestic fabrication. Rivals in the principles upon which are based the great political institutions of either country, in the successful adaptation of certain elements of civil freedom to the state of society, in the progress of civilization, as it is controlled or modified by the arts and sciences ; these two great nations, standing upon opposite hemispheres, survey as it were the condition of each other, and glance over the great ocean itself, alike to be the scene of their exertions and the sources of their power. From the cold and cheerless seas, where the adventurous fisherman pursues the whale, to the genial and smiling climes where nature breathes eternal summer, or reposes in the continual fragrance of flowers and spices, the vessels of either nation ply their trade. If the meteor flag waves over the castles and towers of distant countries, the star-spangled banner displays itself in their ports. Each breeze wafts abroad the rich products of home, or brings back the exchanged wealth of strangers. Such is now the flourishing and happy condition of both ; but the same cannot endure forever. "The great globe itself shall change, yea all which it inherit," and this competition, continued in rivalry, must end in inequality ; then comes the reign of commercial monopoly, which like the armed hand, is not to be endured in friendship, or with safety.

The conduct of nations towards one another must always be regulated by their relative interests ; from this truth the government of the United States possesses a sort of guaranty of good faith, by the strong interest which the British Empire has in

the provinces of Canada. It is through these possessions that the United States can always with least cost assail that power. The interests to England are much greater than they could be to the United States, having reference only to the lumber and fisheries; and the stake thus to be ventured by the violation of national law, or of special treaties, is a wholesome restraint upon commercial cupidity, and national jealousy. This is a consideration which, whilst it shews that the Republic is unambitious of territorial acquisition, teaches us also the propriety of possessing an established military force, which is at all times speedily made available to resent an injury.

The extent of territory, the amount of population, the character and strength of surrounding or neighboring nations, the political connections, form of government, and genius of a people, are the data upon which are based the expediency of military preparation, and the extent to which such preparation ought to be carried. Contrast now the points named, with the actual forces of the principal nations of the world, and with the condition of the United States, and then judge what danger there can possibly be, from such establishments. In reference to England, and to this country more particularly, the phantom of military usurpation retreats within the confines of the imagination, or is seen the mere phantasm of the brain, the bug-bear of popular fear and silly prejudice, which approaches to superstition. We conclude with this observation, that the prejudices entertained against military establishments, which the wants of the country demand, are not supported by the history of military bodies in any nation, or in any age, and are strikingly in contradiction to the very experience of our own government.

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FOR THE MILITARY AND NAVAL MAGAZINE.

#### TO THE OFFICERS OF THE TWO SERVICES.

To appear before the world in the character of an Essayist at an age, when, by popular consent one can know but little, and where one is surrounded by talented seniors, is certainly a hazardous step. The attempts of a young rooster to imitate the pulmonary achievements of the veteran cock, are in the estimation of some not more ludicrous. "This *genius* is continually scribbling," says one; "he's fond of seeing his name in print," says another; whilst a very respectable majority of his fellows, honestly express it as their opinion, that "if he'd read more, and write less, it would be better for himself and his country."

That the pruning hook of ridicule is frequently judiciously applied to redundant branches on the tree of exuberant intel-

lect, and that whatever tends to make more readers and fewer authors, deserves the approval of every scholar, no one will hesitate to admit. But that censure in these matters is frequently the result of malevolence, and a consciousness of mental mediocrity, will be allowed with as little reluctance. All of us have friends competent to the production of excellent essays on a variety of topics, but are absolutely deterred from their composition, at first through fear of sarcasm, and at length from disinclination to encounter men, from whom, in the event of success in the literary arena, no honours could be won, nor fame acquired.

This indifference to appear as a contributor to a periodical, when a man has been told by well tried friends of his inadequacy, is commendable; but to apply the term modesty, when the true word is disinclination, is evidently reprehensible. For example, the army and navy are filled with as intelligent men as the Union can afford. Every branch of science and literature find votaries in the quarters of the American officers; more than two thirds of their time are devoted to books and conversation, the muses, and the society of the ladies; yet they suffer several numbers of a journal, established expressly for their use, and which they have been demanding for years, to be filled with foreign matter, and lists of laws that have been read and re-read repeatedly. For this there can be no apology.

Brothers! forming as we do a family with which, from the peculiar spirit of our country's institutions, and the commendable dispositions of its citizens, we must ever be identified, let us unite in rendering "the Army and Navy Magazine" the repository of American military talent, and the altar on which all our literary oblations shall be offered; the hours of *ennui*, unavoidable in our comparatively monotonous career, will speedily cease to exist; we shall have a monthly Mercury, the very expectation of whose arrival will cheer our isolated existence, and assure us of our unabating connexion with society; of friends dead, married, transferred, resigned, shipwrecked, and all the 'pride, pomp, and circumstance' of our terrestrial relations.

Humble as you perceive my abilities are, I shall forward to the publishers an article for the next number, which, if rejected, will not deter me from another essay, which I hope to find accompanied by a series of original articles from my brothers in arms generally.

COQUILLE.

[The publishers will be very happy to receive contributions from the writer of the foregoing article, and from all others who are so inclined.

It must not be forgotten, however, that the republication of the best articles that can be found in foreign periodicals, and the laws of Congress relating to the army and navy, forms a part of the design of our Magazine.]



## MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT.

Among other items, prepared for the last number, which we were compelled to omit for want of room, was a list of the gentlemen invited to attend the annual examination of the Cadets at West Point. The following are their names. Those in italics did not attend.

*List of Gentlemen invited to attend the examination of the Cadets of the United States' Military Academy, in June, 1833.*

*Massachusetts*—James Russell, Esq. *Rev. J. Leland.*

*Rhode Island*—Gov. James Fenner.

*New York*—*Washington Irving, Esq.* Gen. Erastus Root. *Perley Keyes, Esq.* Gen. Morgan Lewis. Gov. J. C. Yates. Gen. Stephen Van Rensselaer.

*New Jersey*—Gov. M. Dickerson. G. D. Wall, Esq.

*Pennsylvania*—Col. E. Banks. Hon. J. R. Burden. Hon. T. H. Crawford.

*Delaware*—James Rogers, Esq. Geo. Reed, Esq.

*Maryland*—Upton S. Heath, Esq. J. S. Skinner, Esq.

*Virginia*—Hon. W. S. Archer. Major R. Pollard. Col. F. B. Povall.

*South Carolina*—Hon. William Drayton. Hon. J. R. Poinsett.

*Georgia*—Hon. J. Forsyth.

*Tennessee*—Rev. Doct. Charles Coffin.

*Kentucky*—J. Haskin, Esq. Dr. J. A. Tomlinson. Warden Pope, Esq.

*Ohio*—Thomas R. Ross, Esq.

*Michigan*—John Norvell.

*U. S. Army*—Gen. J. R. Fenwick. Col. James Bankhead.

The Report of the Board of Visitors, being an important and interesting document, we have made room for it to the exclusion of other matter, which had been previously prepared.

## REPORT

*Of the Board of Visitors to the general examination of Cadets of the United States' Military Academy; in June, 1833.*

TO THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

The Board of Visitors, who have been invited to be present at the general examination of the Cadets of the United States' Military Academy, in order that the War Department may be correctly informed of the condition and management of the Academy, have attended the examination of all the classes, and are perfectly satisfied with the progress made by the Cadets in the several departments of their studies in which they were examined.

At the request of the Superintendent, a Committee appointed by order of the Board, assigned the subjects to each individual of the class, in order to avoid all suspicion of the Examining Professor having adapted the subject to the capacity and attainments of the Cadet, so as to exhibit an appearance of greater proficiency than the class really possesses.

The first class was examined in Military and Civil Engineering, in Mineralogy, Rhetoric, Ethics and Constitutional and

National Law, and in Infantry and Artillery tactics ; and in each of these departments exhibited proofs of their application and attainments, and of the zeal, capacity, and industry of the Professor and Assistants. The Cadets of this class will leave the Academy well fitted to fulfil the great objects of the institution, viz : to introduce into the armies of the United States all the modern improvements in the art of war, and the high state of discipline which distinguishes the best armies of Europe, to disseminate throughout our country a knowledge of Military Tactics and Engineering, so as to furnish the means of rendering our militia as well as our regular army an efficient arm of defence in time of war ; and to provide officers properly instructed and fully capable of superintending the construction of fortifications, for the permanent defence of our maritime frontier, and of works connected with the internal improvement of the country.

The Cadets of the second class were examined in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, and showed a degree of proficiency very creditable to the Professors and Assistants, who have been charged with their instruction in these departments. The Board would here remark, that in their opinion it would be expedient to establish a permanent Professor of Chemistry. The important discoveries made and still making in this department of science, and its application to the useful arts, as well as its connexion with the means of preserving the health of the soldier in camps and barracks, render it important that it should be taught in this Academy ; and it is obvious that it requires great application, experience, and long practice, to teach a science which must be illustrated by experiments made before the pupil. It is believed to be difficult to acquire the art of instructing youth in any department of literature or science ; but it is especially so in those which require skill in demonstrating the theories and principles by experiments. Instruction in such branches ought not to be entrusted to officers liable to be frequently removed.

The third class were examined in Mathematics and French. There is no institution, that we are acquainted with, where this department of science in its higher branches is more thoroughly taught than in this Academy. The high attainments, and unwearied industry, of the Professors and Assistants, together with the great application and capacity of the Cadets of the third class, were exhibited throughout the course of this examination in a manner highly satisfactory to the Board.

The examination in French was very creditable to the Teachers and Cadets of this class. They appeared to be well instructed in the grammar of this difficult language, conjugating the regular and irregular verbs very correctly, and they translated it into English with great facility, which is all that is

deemed requisite : the principal object of this course being to enable the Cadet to consult the best French Authors on Military Science.

As there are at least 160 students to be taught in this language, it is believed by those best acquainted with the subject, that another teacher in this branch ought to be added to those already employed.

The fourth class were examined in Mathematics and French. The Cadets of this class evinced a degree of proficiency in the elementary branches of Mathematics highly creditable to the gentleman who is charged with this department of their studies. Whatever may be the talents and application of the student, he cannot make any proficiency in this essential department of study, which may be considered as the foundation of all military education, unless his studies are directed by a person not only profoundly versed in the science, but possessed of great experience in the art of instructing youth ; and the Board would take this opportunity of remarking, that to remove such an instructor from the Academy for the purpose of substituting another, who, whatever his talents and acquirements may be, does not possess the same experience and practice in teaching, cannot but be prejudicial to the interests of the Academy, and would be unjust to the Cadets.

The Government exacts from them, especially in the department of Mathematics, a degree of proficiency, which they cannot obtain without the assistance of competent instructors ; and they may be exposed to be turned back as deficient, or to be dismissed as incapable of going through the course of studies in the Academy, because the instructor provided for them is incompetent or inexperienced.

The Board is induced to make these remarks from having had before them a late order of the Commander in Chief, containing regulations sanctioned by you, which, if applicable to this Academy, would seem calculated to affect very materially the instruction of the Cadets. It appears to them that the regulations requiring all officers, who have not served with their regiments for three years to join their respective corps, as it will remove nearly all the Assistant Professors from the Academy, would be attended with very great inconvenience at any time ; and at this period, when the Superintendent, who has so long presided over this institution, with such signal ability and success, is about to retire, such a change would seriously embarrass his successor. This embarrassment will be increased by the effect of the regulation, which takes from the Superintendent the power of nominating the officers to be detached for that service. He is supposed from his situation to be better acquainted than any one else with the acquirements and moral character of the graduates, and as the responsibility rests with him, it

appears but just that he should have the power of selecting his Assistants. It is deemed important, that the course of studies should be steady, and keep pace with the improvements which daily take place in the progress of science. This would be impracticable if the Assistant Professors were frequently changed, and selected from officers who had graduated prior to the introduction of the improvements now taught in this institution throughout every department of science. Indeed it would appear advisable that the Professors and Assistant Professors, who have evinced so much capacity in imparting instruction to youth, should be offered every inducement to remain, by being permanently attached to the institution, and receiving some additional allowance for services materially affecting the future character and efficiency of the army, and which, if they were rendered in any literary institution in the country, would command much higher pecuniary rewards.

The Board attended the Battalion, Light Infantry, and Artillery drills, and had every reason to be satisfied with the instruction of the Cadets in their field exercises. They were present likewise in the Laboratory, when the Cadets exhibited their proficiency in Pyrotechny, and they subsequently saw them throw shells, and fire at the target with light and heavy pieces of Artillery; all which they executed with a precision rarely equalled, and not surpassed in any school of practice in Europe.

This is the more remarkable from the state of the pieces used for practice. They are very defective, and the Board recommend that the several pieces of Ordnance, which are required for the instruction of the Cadets by their able and scientific instructor, should be furnished of the best quality and most approved constructions.

Much credit is due to the officer charged with the instruction of the Cadets in this department. He has compiled a practical treatise on Military Pyrotechny, and translated an excellent elementary treatise on the forms of Cannon and various systems of Artillery, and another on the Theory and Practice of Gunnery, from the French of Professor Persy, of Metz; all of which, with numerous plates illustrating the subjects, have been published in the Lithographic Press in the Academy.

The Cadets are encamped two months in every year, and during that period are instructed in all the duties of the soldier in active service, in the use of instruments, and in the application of the different branches of science necessary to a knowledge of their profession; whether this practical course of the application of science to the purposes of Military and Civil Engineering may not be usefully extended, is worthy of consideration.

The Library of the Academy contains a very valuable collection of works adapted to the peculiar objects of this institu-



tion. It is rich in works on military science and on civil Engineering, and contains a valuable series of military history, and the best Geographical and Topographical maps of the States of Europe to illustrate this important study. It is true that in works on polite literature it is as yet rather deficient, although the selection has been very judicious; but however desirable it may be to augment the number of volumes on miscellaneous subjects, the real object of the institution must be kept steadily in view, and it will continue to be the duty of the Superintendent to purchase, in preference to all others, books relating to the sciences taught in this Academy, and to supply the necessary works on Architecture, Chemistry, Geology, Mineralogy, and Moral Science, in which the Library is still very deficient.

The philosophical apparatus and astronomical instruments are of the best kind and of the latest invention; but many more are required fully to illustrate the course of Natural Philosophy.

The building which contains the Library and philosophical apparatus is both unsafe and unstable, and the rooms are so small and inconvenient as not to admit of the necessary arrangement and display of them for useful purposes. Many instruments of the philosophical apparatus, which are delicate in their structure and uses, and require to be very nicely and accurately adjusted, are exposed to be injured by the constant and violent shaking of the edifice, and the finer astronomical instruments cannot be used from the same reason and from want of space. A large telescope is placed in a detached building entirely unsuited to its uses.

For these reasons, and from the intrinsic value of the books and instruments, the Board recommend the erection of a fire proof building with an observatory annexed to it.

Upon a careful and minute examination of the public buildings of the Academy, it has been found, that they are inadequate to the purposes of the institution, and are not only badly constructed, but entirely too limited to afford comfortable or proper accommodations for the Cadets who are lodged in them.

A number of Cadets are from necessity crowded into a small room, which must produce a prejudicial effect upon their studies, their morals, and their health. That they have been exempt hitherto from the diseases which are engendered in confined and crowded apartments, is due altogether to the admirable system of internal police and strict attention to cleanliness which distinguish every department of this institution.

There is besides a want of accommodations for the Assistant Professors; and the Quarter Master, Pay Master, and Adjutant are without offices. For all these purposes nearly fifty new rooms are required. The Board would recommend, that the Superintendent be instructed to furnish a plan of a building

capable of uniting all the accommodations required by the officers and Cadets now at the Academy, and of being extended whenever the Government may think it expedient to enlarge this institution, and render it proportionate to our vast territories and rapidly increasing population; and that whenever it may be thought proper to erect the building now called for, it may be so constructed as to form part of an edifice hereafter to be completed with more extensive accommodations.

On examining into the fiscal concerns of the Academy, the Board had every reason to be satisfied, that great economy has been exercised in the administration of this department of the institution, and cheerfully bear testimony to the order and regularity with which the books are kept, and the receipts and disbursements accounted for, as well as to the integrity and judicious economy with which the finances of the Academy are administered.

There are several subjects, the importance of which is fully understood and acknowledged by the Superintendent and Academic Staff, but which are not taught in this institution for want of time. In military and civil engineering it is thought that the following might be introduced with great advantage to the Cadets: A course of applied mechanics on the investigation and description of some of the most usual machines employed in the construction of public works. Some practical exercises in the field, such as laying out and throwing up some of the works of a campaign which are most ordinarily used; batteries, trenches, cavaliers, the manner of conducting saps, the construction of gabions and fascines, &c. &c. and a course of topography as applied to military reconnoissances; indeed, such is the vast importance of this branch, that a new department, embracing the whole subject, could not fail to be very advantageous to the military student.

In the department of Natural Philosophy, many important practical illustrations might be advantageously introduced. At present, the experimental part of the course is principally confined to the illustration of such facts and general principles as may be established by experiments exhibited in the presence of the entire class. These illustrations are attended with the most beneficial effects, as they serve to make a very forcible impression on the mind of the student, but they are alone insufficient. It is frequently important that the student should not only be acquainted with the name and use of an instrument; but that he should be able to employ it himself. This can only be done when sufficient time is allowed for each student to make frequent use of such instruments under the immediate direction of the Professor.

This deficiency is particularly felt in the course of Astronomy, where an intimate acquaintance with the use of instruments,

and the habits of submitting the data furnished by observation to the process of calculation, are essentially necessary to enable the student to apply his theoretical knowledge to useful purposes. The instruction in practical Astronomy is altogether too limited. The time which can be devoted to this object being scarcely more than sufficient to permit the Professor to make the students acquainted with the objects of the few instruments in the possession of this department. This is certainly a great defect; important lines are frequently required to be established as boundaries between States and Territories of neighboring nations, where the accurate use of instruments is of the last importance, and the Cadets of this Academy ought to be practically taught to use them with perfect correctness.

The principles of Strategy, or Grand Tactics, might be taught with advantage. It is true that there is no work treating of those subjects which is sufficiently condensed, and at the same time perfectly unexceptionable in its principles and illustrations; but the same industry and talent which have furnished text books in other departments of military science, might be employed for this purpose with great success, and furnish a series of lectures embracing a definition of the technical terms employed, and of such general principles as admit of the clearest and most exact illustration.

It appears always to have been desirable that Cavalry Tactics should be taught at a great National Military Academy. This branch has hitherto been totally neglected; but it has become more essentially necessary since this arm has been added to the regular army of the country. The service of Cavalry and Horse Artillery ought to form a part of the practical instruction of this Academy; and the Board respectfully recommend this subject to your consideration. As the Cadets are now occupied sedulously every hour of the day in the prosecution of the studies now taught in this institution, it will be necessary, if these subjects are deemed of sufficient importance to be added to the present course, that the term of the academic study should be extended—or that the qualifications required on entering the Academy should be made much greater than they now are. They are now lower than is required by any literary institution in this country; and no doubt the frequent dismissal of those young men, who cannot keep up with their class, arises principally from this cause. Parents ought to be informed of the great advantage their sons would derive the first year of their course at this Academy, by being well grounded in the classics, in arithmetic, algebra, and in the rudiments of the French language.

The manner in which the Cadets are furnished with clothing, was a subject of inquiry by the Board, who are satisfied that this is done in the most economical manner.—Their mess-room

was inspected while the Cadets were at their meals ; and the Board were satisfied that the steward fulfilled his contract faithfully, and supplied the tables with abundance.

An inquiry having been made into the manner in which the Cadets are supplied with the class books and stationery ; the Board are satisfied, after a careful investigation, that the Cadets are supplied with all such articles at a lower price than they can be purchased in New York, and in the most convenient, just and economical manner ; and that the arrangement made by the Superintendent in this particular, is marked by the same prudent economy, order and intelligence, which characterize the management of the institution.

The Board having learned that the present Superintendent of the Military Academy, whose health has suffered from his close attention to the affairs of the institution, has, by his own solicitation, been called to the performance of other duties, cannot forbear to express the very high sense they entertain of his merit and services, during the long period of his command of the station.

To the knowledge acquired with this view by Col. Thayer, the Military Academy of the United States owes its present admirable organization ; and to his zeal, capacity and unwearied attention to his duties, is to be attributed the high state of discipline and improvement of the institution. To his exertions we owe, in a great measure, the success of this establishment, the extensive usefulness of which needs only to be understood by the nation, to be fully appreciated.

Independently of serving to disseminate over the vast territories of the United States, knowledge of a description which cannot enter into the usual course of studies in other Academies, and furnishing the means of rendering most effective our army and militia ; of securing our frontier, and improving the communications throughout the States ; it is calculated to elevate the moral state of the military profession in our country, the importance of which to the general interests of the nation, cannot be too much insisted upon.

The annals of history prove, that success in arms is one of the most faithful sources of personal popularity ; and in a country where the soldier is still a citizen, and may be called upon to share in the civil government, or rise to the highest honors of the State, the standard of study and discipline cannot be too high, which develops his talents and forms his character. The same annals show that at the close of successful wars, the liberties of a country depend in a great measure upon the character of its armies :—at such a period the fortunate soldier possesses power, and great and probably well earned popularity : and if his character is not so elevated by nature or education as to lead him to prefer the solid fame of having preserved the



liberties of his fellow-citizens to the glitter of false ambition, and to sacrifice all personal views of aggrandizement to the good of his country, he may plunge the State into anarchy, or rivet upon his fellow citizens the chains of despotism. If ever the liberties of the States of Europe shall be recovered, it will be effected through the improved condition, character and education of their officers and soldiers; and while we indulge the hope that the liberty of these States rests upon too firm a basis to be overthrown by the ambition of those who compose our armies, it cannot be concealed that if they were not instructed, their ignorance and depravity might seriously endanger the peace of the country.

The Board have observed with some regret, that the old works in the neighborhood of the Academy have been in some instances, disturbed. They ought, in their opinion, to be preserved as monuments of the glorious struggle, which secured our independence. The contemplation of such memorials cannot fail to have a beneficial effect. They are calculated to inspire all Americans with sentiments of exalted patriotism, and to remind them of the extraordinary efforts and great sacrifices made by our forefathers to achieve the liberty and independence of the country—and cannot fail to lead them to form virtuous resolutions and to reflect that as heirs of the immortal fame of their ancestors, they are bound to emulate their glorious career, and preserve their bright inheritance with the same inflexible courage and undeviating purpose.

STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER, *President.*

Charles Coffin,  
J. R. Burden,  
J. S. Skinner,  
Levin Gale,  
James Russell,  
T. H. Crawford,  
E. Banks,

John R. Fenwick,  
Brig. Gen. James Bankhead,  
J. R. Poinsett,  
Erastus Root,  
John Forsyth,  
Joseph C. Yates,

James Fenner,  
John A. Tomlinson,  
F. B. Porall,  
R. Pollard,  
G. Read,  
J. Rogers.

JOHN NORVELL, *Secretary.*

ORDER, }  
No. 48. }

HEAD QUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, May 18th, 1833.

The following Regulations having received the sanction of the War Department, are published for the information and government of all concerned.

1.—*Appointments to the Staff, and details of officers to assist in Staff Departments.*

1—As far as practicable, all appointments in the Staff and details for assistance in the departments of the Staff, will be equalized on the several

regiments, according to the strength of each regiment in officers. The regiment of Dragoons, unless in cases specially authorized by the Secretary of War, will not be subject to such details.

2—The Artillery, under the provisions of the law, furnishes the details for the Ordnance; it will also furnish its proportion for other extra duties, according to its numbers, after deducting the details for the Ordnance.

3—All applications for officers for any Staff duty, including the Military Academy, will, in the first instance, be made by officers in charge of the Staff departments requiring assistance, to the Adjutant General, stating the number of officers required, without naming them, in order that the details may be made according to the principles embraced in paragraphs 1 and 2, should such detail meet the approbation of the Secretary of War.

4—An officer shall not be allowed to fill any Staff appointment, the duties of which will detach him from his regiment, until he has served at least three years with his regiment. The same rule will be observed in regard to selections of officers for duty in the Ordnance, Engineer, and Topographical Departments, or other detached duties not connected with the regiment.

5—Hereafter, all officers detailed for duty in any Staff Department, or on any detached service, shall not remain so detached, for a longer period than two years; but may be relieved earlier, according to circumstances.

6—All officers absent from their regiments, and who have not served as above, will be relieved and ordered to join their respective regiments and stations by the 1st of May, 1834, or as soon as the public service will, in the opinion of the General-in-Chief, permit.

7—The above rule will not apply to Aides de Camp.

## II.—*Restrictions as to Extra Allowances.*

In all cases, hereafter, where an officer of the Army is required, by the special direction of the War Department, to perform duties or to make disbursements, for which compensation is not specifically provided by law, or by the Regulations, and where the instructions directing such duties to be done, or such disbursements to be made, make no provision for any additional compensation, no allowance therefor will be made to such officer. It will then be considered that, in the opinion of the War Department, the services so required are within the proper sphere of his duty, as an officer of the Army.

## III.—*Leaves of Absence.*

1—No leave of absence shall be granted to any officer until he has joined his regiment, or corps, and served with it at least three years.

2—When the state of the service will permit, leave of absence may be granted to an officer for ninety days, who has served three years with his regiment.

3—Officers who have not received leave of absence as above, may be allowed to be absent at the rate of ninety days for the first three years, and forty days for each additional year they have actually continued on regimental duty, and if they have received indulgence for a less period than is here specified, then so many days as will make up the difference; but in no instance will a leave of absence be granted to exceed one year.

4—Commanding officers of regiments may, with the approbation of Generals of Departments, grant short leaves of absence to officers of their own regiments, not exceeding ten days in any one month, provided that in any one year the whole indulgence so granted does not exceed thirty days; which short leaves will be taken into the estimate of the leaves of absence to be granted to such officers.

5—Generals of Departments will hereafter grant leaves only to their immediate Staff officers, and within the limits mentioned in paragraph 4th.

6—Officers are not to leave the United States without permission from General Head Quarters, unless it may be the most convenient route to their proper destination, as in travelling from post to post.

7—The practice which has so extensively prevailed, of officers of the Army visiting the seat of government, has been injurious to the public service. The evils of this practice have been not only in withdrawing officers from their proper stations, but frequently in its effects upon the business of the Army and upon public opinion. There are no benefits to individuals which can counteract the disadvantages of this indiscriminate indulgence. Where such visits are necessary for the public service, or for any just right of the individual concerned, they will be authorized. Nor will reasonable indulgence for the gratification of a laudable curiosity be refused, where the circumstances of the applicants make those proper, and where the public interest will not suffer. But of the propriety of these, the General-in-Chief will judge, and, therefore, no officer will visit the seat of Government unless ordered, or unless specially permitted so to do by the General-in-Chief. An officer, however, may pass through the seat of government when on duty or on leave of absence, provided it is the most direct route to his place of destination; but in such case, he will report in person to the Adjutant General, and will not remain more than twenty-four hours.

8—All applications to General Head Quarters for leaves of absence, will be made through the immediate commander of the officer requesting the indulgence, and the commandant of the post, who will forward the application to the Colonel of the regiment for his approval.

*Form of Application for Leave of Absence.*

Rank and Name.				
From what period.				
To what period.				
On what account.				
<i>Distribution of the Officers of the ——— Regiment of ———.</i>				
		Field officers	Captains	Subalterns
				Bvt 2d Lieuts
Present	{	On duty with the Regiment		
		On Staff or other duty		
Absent	{	With leave		
		Without leave		
Vacancies				
Establishment				

This space is to contain the letter of the commanding officer of the regiment to the Adjutant General, stating the grounds on which he is induced to recommend the request for favorable consideration: and particularly stating, if the applicant be a company officer, the number of officers with his company for duty.

If the officer be not on duty in the line, the application for leave will be sent direct, by the commandant of the post, to General Head Quarters.

9—No leave of absence, upon the tender and acceptance of the resignation of a commission, shall exceed the following rates:

Twelve months in cases of service exceeding twelve years;

Ten months in cases of service exceeding ten years, and not over twelve years;

Eight months in cases of service exceeding eight years, and not over ten years;

Five months in cases of service exceeding six years, and not over eight years;

Three months in cases of service exceeding four years, and not over six years;

One month in cases of service exceeding three years, and not over four years.

No such leave of absence will be granted any officer until he has served three years.

10—In computing the period of service, the time will be excluded which may have been occupied by preceding leaves of absence, and by extra duty, to which any additional compensation or allowances may have been made.

11—Three months leave of absence will be allowed to Cadets on their graduation at the Military Academy, to visit their friends and to equip themselves for service; at the end of which time they are to join the regiments or corps to which they may respectively be attached. Any graduate failing to join within the specified time, will be considered as not having accepted his appointment, and his name will be dropped from the rolls of the Army.

12—The term *leave of absence* is applicable to the permission granted to officers of the Army to be absent from their duty; and the term *furlough* to similar permission granted to non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates.

13—It will be distinctly understood that the indulgences mentioned in these regulations are not matters of right, and to be granted of course; but they are intended as limitations upon the prevailing practice, and as establishing its utmost extent. Applications will, therefore, in all cases, be decided upon the circumstances as they are presented, and upon the professional character and services of the applicants, respectively.

#### IV.—*Absence without leave.*

1—The pay and allowances of all officers who may be absent without leave, shall be suspended; and all Paymasters are prohibited from paying them, until a satisfactory explanation shall have been given through the commanding officers of their respective regiments or posts, as to the cause of their being so absent, and a justification of the same shall have been made to General Head Quarters, through the Adjutant General, to be laid before the Secretary of War; in order that if no satisfactory account can be obtained as to the cause of their absence, all such officers so offending may be stricken from the rolls of the Army. The pay accounts of all officers presented for payment during the period of their absence from their permanent stations, will be accompanied by a copy of the order or leave, which detaches them from their proper commands, or stations.

#### V.—*Absence on account of ill health.*

1—When officers are prevented by ill health from joining their regiments, they will transmit certificates of their state of health to the commanding officer of their respective regiments, and also to the Adjutant General. These certificates to be signed by a medical officer of the Army; but should no medical officer of the Army be in the vicinity to sign such certificate, a resident physician of the place will sign the same, attested by a magistrate.—These certificates to be transmitted so as to arrive at the Head Quarters of the regiment, and at the office of the Adjutant General, before the expiration of the periods of leave which the officers may have received.

2—The medical officer is to state candidly and explicitly his opinion as to the period which will probably elapse before such officer will be able to resume his military duties; and when there is no reason to expect a recovery, or where the prospect of recovery is distant and uncertain, it must be so stated. The following is the form of the certificate.

#### *Form of Medical Certificate.*

\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ Regiment of \_\_\_\_\_ having applied for a certificate on which to ground an application for leave of absence,  
I do hereby certify, that I have carefully examined this officer, and find



that [*here the nature of the disease, wound, &c. is to be fully stated, and the period during which the officer has suffered under its effects*] and that, in consequence thereof, I conceive him to be incapable of military duty: I further declare my belief that he will not be able to resume his duties in a less period than [*here state candidly and explicitly the opinion as to the period which will probably elapse before the officer will be able to undertake his military duties. When there is no reason to expect a recovery, or when the prospect of recovery is distant and uncertain, it must be so stated.*]

Dated at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the }  
medical officer, }

I have the honor to forward the above certificate of my ill state of health, which renders me at present incapable of performing my duty, and to state that I have already been absent with leave, from the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ by permission of \_\_\_\_\_ and from the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ to the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ by permission of \_\_\_\_\_.

Signature of the }  
officer, }

Place of residence, \_\_\_\_\_

3—Whenever an officer shall remain absent unable to do duty for two years, his case will be specially reported for the consideration of the President of the United States. That term will generally be found sufficiently long to decide whether the disability is permanent. If it is judged to be so, the case in all its circumstances, looking to the physical condition of the officer, as well as to his services and the origin of the disorder, whether owing to exposure in the line of his duty, will be the subject of examination and decision by the Executive.

BY ORDER OF MAJOR GENERAL MACOMB:

R. JONES,  
Adjutant General.

## MILITARY INTELLIGENCE.

**WEST POINT.**—Colonel Sylvanus Thayer, who has long held the post of Superintendent of the Military Academy, has been relieved from that command, at his own instance, and Major R. E. De Russey is appointed to succeed him.

**ARMY MEDICAL BOARD.**—Drs. Lawson, Mower and Smith, were in New Orleans in the early part of May, engaged in the duties assigned to them by the War Department. From the well known abilities of these gentlemen, and the rigid manner in which they conduct their examinations, the successful candidates will enter upon their official duties with the strongest guarantees of professional excellence. The Medical Staff of the Army, now filled by very talented individuals, will hereafter present additional claims to the respect of the community generally. The augmentation of their pay, so strenuously urged by the Secretary of War, and which would have been allowed at the past session, but for the intervention of all-engrossing topics, will, we have no doubt, receive the early attention of the next Congress; a measure which, we feel assured, will meet the approbation of every friend of our gallant Army.

Company H, of the 1st Artillery, commanded by Capt. H. W. GRISWOLD, arrived at Fortress Monroe, on Thursday, 13th June, from Beaufort, N. C. via the Dismal Swamp Canal, in the Schr. Susan, Captain Brooks.

## NAVAL INTELLIGENCE.

**DRY DOCKS.**—The completion of two new Dry Docks, one at Gosport, Va. the other at Charlestown, Mass. is an important epoch in our Naval history. They have been built in the most substantial manner, and reflect great credit upon the skill of the Engineer, Col. L. BALDWIN, who superintended their construction.

The ship of the line *Delaware* was safely taken into the Dock at Gosport, on Monday 17th June, where she will be repaired and perhaps coppered.—She will then go round to New York, to take on board Mr. LIVINGSTON and suite, and after landing them at some port in France, proceed to take her station as the flag-ship in the Mediterranean. Captain H. E. BALLARD has arrived at Norfolk to take command of the *Delaware*.

The Frigate *Constitution*, (*Old Ironsides*, as she is familiarly called) was safely taken into the Dock at Charlestown, on Monday 24th June.

It may be asserted, without fear of contradiction, that no Docks in the world are superior to those at Charlestown and Gosport.

**MEDITERRANEAN.**—The Frigate *Brandywine*, Captain J. Renshaw, arrived at Lisbon on the 11th May, from Gibraltar.

Frigate *United States*, Com. Patterson, arrived at Toulon in company with the *Constellation*, Capt. G. C. Read, on the 16th April, from Mahon, and placed under quarantine. The *United States* will remain in the Mediterranean during the summer. The *Constellation* will cruise on the coast of Africa, after the two vessels shall have reached Smyrna, to which place the *John Adams* had proceeded.

**BRAZIL.**—Sloop *Lexington*, Capt. McKeever, sailed from Rio on the 8th May, for Bahia.

Sloop *Warren*, Capt. Cooper, sailed from Rio for the River La Piata, 21st April.

Schr. *Enterprize*, Lieut. Com'g Downing, sailed from Rio, 22nd April, for Bahia, Maranham and Para.

Sloop *Peacock*, Capt. Geisinger, sailed from Lintin, 28th December, for Cochin China.

Schr. *Boxer*, Lieut. Com'g Shields, at Batavia 15th February.

**WEST INDIES.**—Sloop *Vandalia*, Captain Budd, sailed from Vera Cruz 23d May on a cruise.

Schr. *Shark*, Lieut. Com'g Boerum, at Pensacola, 14th June.

Schr. *Grampus*, Lieut. Com'g Smoot, at Guadaloupe 23d May, to sail next day on a cruise.

Schr. *Porpoise*, Lieut. Com'g McIntosh, arrived at Key West 22nd May, ten days from Pensacola, and was there on the 30th.

U. S. Frigate *Potomac*, }  
VALPARAISO, 18TH MARCH, 1833. }

SIR:—

I have the honor to acquaint you with the arrival of the *Potomac* at this place on the 15th inst. sixteen days from Callao. I left the Falmouth there, to sail the 4th instant, to give protection to our commercial and whaling interests, on the coast of Peru to the northward of Lima as far as Guayaquil. The *Dolphin* had not returned from Panama when I sailed from Callao: I expect her here about the middle of April.

I am Sir, with great respect,

Your most ob't Serv't,

JOHN DOWNES,

Commanding U. S. Squadron in the Pacific.

The Hon. LEVI WOODBURY,  
Secretary of the Navy.

The transfers intimated in the last number as likely to occur, have since taken place. Commodore Charles Stewart has retired from the Board of Navy Commissioners, and Commodore Isaac Chauncey succeeds him. Commodore Charles G. Ridgely hoisted his broad pendant as Commandant of the Navy Yard at New York, on Thursday 20th June.

The U. S. ship *Vincennes*, Capt. W. D. SALTER, from New York, with a detachment of seamen for the U. S. ship *Delaware*; and schr. *Experiment*, Lieut. Com. MERVINE, from Boston, anchored in Hampton Roads, on Wednesday June 19th.

Master Commandant THOMAS T. WEBB has been ordered to the Navy Yard at Gosport, Va. in the place of Master Commandant E. A. F. VALLETTE, appointed to the Fairfield.

### PASSED MIDSHIPMEN.

A Board, composed of Commodore Jacob Jones as President, and Captains J. J. Nicholson and W. B. Shubrick as members, convened at Baltimore on the 6th May, for the examination of such Midshipmen as presented themselves, agreeably to the orders of the Department.

The following is a list of those who were found qualified for promotion, arranged in the order fixed by the Board.

#### Warrants dated in 1826.

1 James F. Miller,	5 Wm. C. Farrar,	8 Robert J. Ross,
2 Henry A. Steele,	6 Francis Bartlett,	9 Wm. Chandler,
3 Charles Heywood,	7 Francis Huger,	10 Geo. N. Hawkins.
4 Ed. R. Thompson,		

#### Warrants dated in 1827.

1 Thomas J. Page,	14 Joseph F. Green,	26 C. S. Ridgely,
2 Geo. Minor,	15 Algernon S. Worth,	27 Robt. E. Johnson,
3 Percival Drayton,	16 Zach. Holland,	28 Geo. McCreery,
4 Wm. C. Griffin,	17 Bushrod W. Hunter,	29 Wm. P. Jones,
5 Oliver Tod,	18 Wm. C. Spencer,	30 John H. Maulsby,
6 Robert F. Pinkney,	19 Overton Carr,	31 John A. Winslow,
7 Thomas R. Rootes,	20 Wm. B. Ludlow,	32 Benj. M. Dove,
8 Edward M. Yard,	21 Luther Stoddard,	33 James R. Sully,
9 J. T. McLaughlin,	22 John R. Tucker,	34 B. J. Moeller,
10 James M. Gilliss,	23 Wm. M. Walker,	35 Ferdinand Piper,
11 Alex. Gibson,	24 Geo. R. Gray,	36 Henry Walke,
12 Wm. S. Young,	25 John Weems,	37 John J. White.
13 Wm. W. Bleecker,		

### RESIGNATIONS, IN THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS.

George Izard, Lieut.	- - - - -	4 May, 1833.
A. C. McLean, 2nd Lieut. M. C.	- - - - -	8 " "
E. L. Greenwood, Midshipman,	- - - - -	13 " "
Francis E. Joyner,	" - - - - -	27 " "
John R. Cox, Lieut.	- - - - -	29 " "
Wm. C. Banister, Midshipman,	- - - - -	6 June, "
Henry Booraem,	" - - - - -	14 " "
Alex. M. Henderson,	" - - - - -	17 " "
Alex. K. Yancey,	" - - - - -	25 " "

### DISMISSIONS.

Walter C. Cutts, Passed Midshipman, 17th May.

Philip M. Box,

John E. Holt,

John C. Davidson,

} Midshipmen, who have failed to attend or pass examination.

## APPOINTMENT.

*George Washington McLean*, of New York, to be 2nd Lieutenant of Marines, 8th May, 1833, vice *A. Clinton McLean*, resigned.

We have received two communications from Officers of the Navy, pointing out an error in the article in the June number of the Magazine, signed "A Subscriber," in which it is asserted that "a captain of the Navy receives \$4 per man" for recruiting seamen, while "officers of the Army are allowed nothing." This allowance formerly existed in the Navy, but was abolished some years since; and the officer in charge of a Recruiting Rendezvous now receives the same pay and emoluments that are allowed to officers of a similar grade stationed at a Navy Yard.

The remarks which accompanied the two communications at the close of the last number, referred more particularly to the Army, and we omitted to correct the error under which one of our correspondents labored.

## MARRIAGES.

In Philadelphia, on the 17th April, Dr. HENRY S. RENNOLDS, of Virginia, Assistant Surgeon in the U. S. Navy, to Miss ELIZABETH G. daughter of the late ISAAC SMITH, of Philadelphia.

In Syracuse, N. Y. on the 1st April, Lieut. R. B. MARCY, of the Army, to Miss MARY AMELIA MANN, daughter of the late SAMUEL MANN, of Syracuse.

In New York, on the 27th April, by the Rev. Dr. Mathews, Capt. M. A. PATRICK, of the U. S. Army, to Miss MARY A. DWIGHT, daughter of THEODORE DWIGHT, Esq. of New York.

In Philadelphia, on the 23th May, A. G. JAUDON, Esq. to Miss LUCY ANN, daughter of Com. WM. BAINBRIDGE, of the Navy.

In Providence, R. I. Lieut. JOSEPH A. PHILLIPS, of the Army, to Miss SOPHIA MANNING, daughter of the late THOS. M. BARROWS, M. D.

In Washington, on the 29th May, Mid. FRANCIS B. WRIGHT, of the Navy, to Miss MARIA HILL.

In Trenton, N. J. on the 5th June, Lieut. WM. EDGAR HUNT, of the Navy, to Miss SUSAN ELIZABETH, daughter of Dr. J. CLARKE.

In New York, on the 19th June, Lt. WILLIAM A. THORNTON, of the Army, to HELEN, daughter of Dr. GILBERT SMITH, of N. Y.

In Norfolk, Va. on the 18th June, Lt. DAVID A. MANNING, of the Army,

to Miss FRANCES L. youngest daughter of the late JOHN E. HOLT, Esq.

In New Kent Co. Va. on the 17th June, at the residence of Dr. Geo. Kennon, Lieut. WILLIAM C. WHITTLE, of the Navy, to Miss ELIZABETH BEVERLY SINCLAIR, eldest daughter of the late Com. A. SINCLAIR, of the Navy.

## DEATHS.

In New Orleans, on the 21st May, Dr. LEWIS HEERMANN, the oldest Surgeon in the Navy.

In Philadelphia, on the 31st May, Lt. JOHN M. RINKER, of the Navy.

At the U. S. Garrison, Baton Rouge, Lou. of Cholera, on the 27th May, after a painful and unusually distressing illness of six days, CATHERINE DORMER STANHOPE, aged 4 years and 26 days, daughter of Col. W. S. FOSTER, of the U. S. Army.

At St. Louis, Misso. of Cholera, on the May, Col. WILLIAM McREA, aged 46, formerly of the U. S. Army.

In Washington, on the 17th June, of Cholera Infantum TERESA MARIAN, infant daughter of Capt. P. G. HOWLE, of the Marine Corps.

In New York, on the 17th May, Capt. JOSEPH C. HALL, of the Marine Corps.

In Portsmouth, N. H. on the 19th Oct. 1832, JOSEPH ANDREWS, Gunner in the Navy.